

*Alberto JOSÉ ALONSO,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Argentine Republic to Ukraine*

CELEBRATION OF THE 208th ANNIVERSARY OF MAY REVOLUTION

The year 2018 is indeed very special for us. On June 1993, the Argentine Embassy in Kyiv opened its doors for the first time. Therefore, this year we will celebrate 25 years since our representation has been established in this wonderful and warm country. However, it is not only the celebration of this momentous date, the year 2018 is also important because of the great breakthroughs that our bilateral relation have reached. Today it may be stated that these relations are mature and mutually beneficial, based on mutual respect and understanding. Our contacts have prospect for strengthening and development. As a matter of fact, the dynamic evolution of a political dialog that our nations are witnessing has strengthened the traditionally friendly bilateral ties. I would like to briefly highlight some milestones in this regard.

On September 21, 2017, a meeting between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, H.E. Jorge Faurie, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H.E. Pavlo Klimkin, took place within the framework of the 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. At the meeting, the Ministers discussed the possibility of a visit of the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko to Argentina in 2018; and expressed their interest in increasing and diversifying commercial exchanges as well as exploring the possibility of collaborating in space affairs. Besides, in April of the current year, the Ukrainian Co-President of the Friendship Parliamentary Group with Argentina, Viktor Romaniuk, together with the Member of the Parliament Taras Kremin visited Buenos Aires City, where they met with the President of the Argentine Friendship Parliamentary Group with Ukraine, Jorge Ricardo Enríquez, and other members of the Argentine Group. At the meeting, participants addressed ways of enhancing mutual collaboration, including the participation at the 140th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union that is to be held in Buenos Aires in 2019.

Another symbol of cooperation between our legislative branches lies in fact that over the recent years the National Congress of Argentina has pronounced several statements on Holodomor. As an act of genocide Holodomor was recognized by the provinces of Chaco, Misiones and Buenos Aires as well as the City Councils of Apóstoles and Berisso. I am convinced that further steps in this direction will be taken by our National Parliament in the near future.



Зустріч ректора Чернівецького національного університету імені Юрія Федьковича професора Степана Васильовича Мельничука з Надзвичайним та Повноважним Послом Аргентини в Україні Альбертом Хосе Алонсо, 18 липня 2018 р.

Meeting of Rector of Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Professor Stepan Vasyliovych Melnychuk with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Argentine Republic to Ukraine Alberto José Alonso, July 18, 2018

Regarding economic interaction, there is a significant progress in bilateral trade. Since 2016, we have done an immense task, the results of which became visible already at the end of 2017. Despite the tough times Ukraine is facing because of the conflict, there is a significant increase in our trade-off by almost 30 percent. We are expecting it to grow 10 percent more in the current year, taking into account new agreements concluded in this area. Our aim is to surpass the highest historic commercial trade index achieved in 2013.

In this respect, it is worth noting the signing of a cooperation agreement between the League of Machinery Builders and Employers of Ukraine, “Ukrmachbud”, and the Argentine Agricultural Machinery Builders (CAFMA), which took place at the “AGRITECHNICA” fair in Hannover, Germany.

Taking into consideration the high level of harvests in 2016 and 2017 in Ukraine, as well as the opening of the European market to local farmers, is very likely foreseeing the increase of the market demand for these kinds of products in the Ukrainian market, which would lead to reaching important agreements between companies of both countries to increase agricultural cooperation and trade.

We are also negotiating about signing bilateral agreements on social security, extradition and detained transferal, mutual assistance in penal and in civil affairs, tourism, cinematographic production, intellectual property protection, environment protection, mutual recognition of elementary and secondary school diplomas, etc. Notably, more than 50 bilateral agreements have already been signed by the two countries in recent years. Furthermore, we are putting our best efforts to expand the range of legal instruments.

The enhancement of cooperation is proved by meetings of the Joint Commission for Economic and Trade Affairs in Buenos Aires in the last quarter of this year. It was planned those meeting would result in holding visits of delegations of Ukrainian businessmen to Argentina and vice versa.

With great pride, we intend to unveil a memorial sign dedicated to the father of our Nation, General Don José de San Martín, in the square located in front of our Embassy. We hope that this solemn event will be joined by the authorities of Kyiv and Buenos Aires as well as Presidents of the Friendship Parliamentary Group of both countries. We consider it to be an excellent opportunity to establish new areas of joint cooperation between both cities in the framework of the existing brotherhood declaration (1993) and cooperation agreement (2000), and above all, to discuss topics related to the “Smart Cities” initiative, to which both cities are deeply committed.

We firmly believe that such values as courage, integrity, diligence, humility and dedication that are inherent in our forefathers are of special relevance in these challenging times and constitute a beacon of enlightenment to guide our roads to peace and friendship worldwide.

The last but not the least is that we are doing a crucial work, promoting the culture of Argentine through the Argentine House in Kyiv that offers a wide range of activities, including Argentine literature workshops, tango and folkloric dance classes, tourism seminars, movie screenings. All events are fully free of charge. The fact that a vast number of Ukrainians of different age and social class engage in these activities with great eagerness makes us very proud, as there is no other thing than culture bringing peoples together more.

As I mentioned before, these facts clearly demonstrate that our relations are developing at a high level and we expect them intensify even more in the forthcoming years.

I would like also to comment on the May Revolution in Argentine. We annually commemorate the event that took place on May 25, 1810, namely the introduction of the foundation act declaring the creation of the Argentine state.

The celebration of the anniversary of the heroic May fest is another reason to think over the legacy our ancestors have left. Two hundred and eight years ago, the word “freedom” arose in the hearts of Argentinians. At first as a whisper, but then gained momentum to become a loud voice of the nation.

We are obliged today to continue defending principles of those women and men, who by overcoming their fears and with incredible courage made the most valuable dream of mankind true: to live in freedom. By remembering these pivotal moments of our history, we aspire to strengthen and maintain our commitment to unity, peace, fraternity and liberty.

It is worth recalling those days to feel the incredible danger our ancestors encountered following the idea of freedom, sacrificing their lives, honour, property and families.

At that time, independence proclamations were made throughout the entire American continent. All those attempts were suppressed with the gravest brutality, so that they had to be made all over again, except for ours'. Following May 25, the Argentine flag has been invariably hanging and still guiding, encouraging and uniting us.

For my compatriots this day is festive. President Mauricio Macri said, "I urge you all to play a leading role for our daily work to be better each day". Despite a number of risks and threats, our government is determined to overcome challenges and dangers of modern life to ultimately eliminate poverty, struggle against drug abuse and distribution, so that our country become free, developed and fair.

We all should build a better society, country and world every day. Let us be the best example for our children, families and neighbours. We should take proactive attitude. Do not wait that the state or the government will do everything for us. We should work hard to satisfy all our needs, even those that occasionally do not correspond to our financial capabilities and do not charge other citizens and the country with these tasks.

I encourage everyone, regardless of where the life path will lead you, to carry the Motherland in your heart with pride and dedication, celebrating the ideas of peace, unity, freedom, equality and wellbeing.