

Dear colleagues!

First of all, I would like to thank you for the invitation to speak at the conference.

I have many fond personal and professional memories of Sweden, and Stockholm is one of my favourite cities in the world.

Unfortunately, for more than 15 months, Europe has been in an unprecedented situation that no scenario models could predict, and no risk manager could take into account. For more than a year now, there has been a war in Ukraine, in the center of Europe.

Ukraine would not be able to resist the enemy if it were not for the support of progressive humanity, primarily from European countries and the USA. I would like to thank the government and people of Sweden for their military, humanitarian and financial assistance to my country, and for helping refugees who were forced to flee Ukraine to escape Russian aggression. We appreciate that the Swedish Association of Insurers (Insurance Sweden) supported the proposal of Ukrainian insurance associations, in particular our Association, to exclude the Russian Union of Insurers from the Federation Insurance Europe.

The Ukrainian economy suffered huge losses during the war, but I am proud to say that the insurance market continues to operate and fulfil its obligations to people and entrepreneurs who have entrusted insurance companies with their financial protection.

Today, Ukrainians are forced to gain invaluable experience in doing business in a war that requires rapid response, new approaches to business processes, and a new level of interaction in teams.

I hope that no country will ever need such an experience. However, we understand that the world is becoming more and more turbulent, and the skills of adaptation and business management during crises of any nature – natural, social, economic – are important to overcome modern challenges.

I believe that next time I will have the opportunity to attend the conference in person and talk not only about overcoming the challenges of the ongoing war, but also about the post-war recovery of Ukraine and the role of the insurance industry in it.