

We are thankful for the opportunity to be here today.

It took days to get here to express gratitude for supporting Ukraine in such difficult time.

Despite the fact of Russian aggression we're doing everything that we can to ensure the right to a fair trial in Ukraine.

From the first day of war, our courts didn't stop even for a day. Our courtrooms became a place to live for refugees and we still were hearing cases.

Our team as all judge community in Ukraine either organized volunteer aid for hospitals, refugees, schools, and, of course, the army. We just can't stand apart from our people.

Some of our courts were destroyed, many of our colleagues suffered from the war and some were captured by Russian forces.

But all these didn't stop our intention for positive changes. Furthermore, these challenges have highlighted the need for the evolution of our court services.

Last year the Law on Mediation was adopted in Ukraine and we started the implementation process.

Family disputes related to the separation of the family, non-fulfillment of obligations during martial law, tax debts, and bankruptcies are just a small part of where mediation is needed now, as a tool to overwhelm the war consequences.

As far as Ukraine got candidate status the EU-Ukraine law harmonization process has started recently. Cooperation and experience exchange with our European colleagues is an important part of this integration.

At this moment 8 motivated Ukrainian judges attending the L.LM mediation program at Mykolas Romeris University in Lithuania. They authorized me to ask you to accept us as a member of GEMME. We are willing to be a part of European judge community.

And finally

As you may know after another rocket and shelling attack there's no electricity in most of our cities now.

But we know that it's always darkest before dawn.

God bless Ukraine and Slava Ukrainy!