

14 October 2026

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 8^{0TH} ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF TRADE AND
ECONOMICS, KYIV, UKRAINE**

Dear Friends, Good Morning

On the 80th anniversary of the State University of Trade and Economics, Kyiv, Ukraine, we send to you greetings from the University of Greenwich, London, Great Britain. It is important, during these most difficult of times to celebrate our past achievements, our history, and our identity.

Today is also a day to look forward to the future.

Your institution is located on the eastern reaches of Europe; we are located in the far west of Europe. But we are both European nations. We share the same values of democracy and decency, respect for the rule of law and human rights, we seek peace and prosperity.

There is an old legal saying, the origins are said to come from old Roman times. And it is this: "Let justice prevail, though the heavens may fall." I think we can – indeed, I suggest that we must – apply this same principle to our educational work:

"Let scientific research prevail, though the heavens may fall."

"Let teaching and learning continues, though it may seem, in these darkest of days, that the heavens are falling."

For the sake of our young people, and for our shared future, we will be strong. Our institutions will continue to cooperate.

My own area of specialism is Tourism. Our university is located on the beautiful Greenwich UNESCO World Heritage site. We look forward to a peaceful future when our students, and we as

researchers, will once again be able to visit each other's touristic sites in person., to do research together, to learn together. Ukraine has so many beautiful natural places, historic cities, and culture, that must be protected and celebrated for all of humanity.

To conclude, I congratulate you on your 80th anniversary.

We will continue to stand with you.

I wish you a wonderful day!

Best wishes



Dr Peter Vlachos
School of Management and Marketing
Greenwich Business School, University of Greenwich, London, UK