



Event	Interview
Interviewee	Mr. Aleksander Yaroslavskyy President of DCH Group, President of FC "Metallist"
Date	April 2011

Mr. Aleksander Yaroslavskyy

- *General Investor and Coordinator of Kharkov City preparation for the EURO 2012, he invested 250 mln USD into development of sports and transport infrastructure of the city;*
- *President and owner of DCH Group; according to Forbes, is among the top-15 most affluent Ukrainians;*
- *President of FC "Metallist" (the club is 4 times a bronze winner of national championship, participant in the European League);*
- *PhD Candidate in technical sciences;*
- *Honorable citizen of Kharkov region. In 2010, the experts of the Business Circles Assembly of Ukraine named Mr. Yaroslavskyy a "Kharkov Citizen of the Decade".*

Eunite Ukraine (EU): How would you evaluate the general readiness of Kharkov city to host EURO 2012 championship? In your opinion, to what extent are the tasks set by UEFA for preparation of the city infrastructure to EURO 2012 already accomplished?

Aleksander Yaroslavskyy (AY): Ukrainian and foreign mass media not only once have admitted Kharkov to be a benchmark city for preparation for the EURO 2012: it's written that we are doing everything systematically and at the fast pace. By the way, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Mr. Pieter Jan Wolthers has visited Kharkov recently and could assure himself about it personally. In less than two years we built a modern European level stadium "Metallist" in a form of private-public partnership. Almost during the same period of time we constructed one of the most up-to-date air terminals on the territory of the Eastern Europe. In fact, we built from scratch a training base which is already put into operation and a football academy for children "Metallist".

The training base will become a training camp for one of the teams participating in the tournament, and the volunteers will live in the building of Academy. So, we meet all the UEFA requirements concerning the deadlines for those objects under DCH supervision.

EXTRACT



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Господину А.В. Ярославскому

**Посольство Королевства
Нидерландов в Украине**

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... I was assured that Kharkov set high standards in preparation for Euro 2012 for all other hosting cities... I will be very glad if Dutch football team has its EURO matches in Kharkov.

...With a special pleasure I would like to mention that the new airport terminal made an unforgettable impression on us. It seems to me that you have found the most successful formula of cooperation with the authorities and indeed, you have constructed the terminal of the highest world standards.

.....Your personal contribution into the development of Ukrainian football, preparation of Kharkov for EURO 2012 and development of the city deserves my sincere respect and must serve as a good example not only for Ukraine but for other European countries as well.

*С уважением,
Peter Jan Wolters*

Питер Ян Волтерс
Посол Королевства Нидерландов в Украине

END OF EXTRACT



EU: What is the construction stage of the different infrastructural objects of the city? Which construction works are being held at the moment, which are still planned to be done?

AY: Nowadays, the works are focused on the several construction sites. The first one is the International Airport Kharkov, which reconstruction we keep on doing together with the state. Airfield together with the runway is reconstructed at the state's expenses. From its side, DCH Group is responsible for air terminal complex. Besides already finished new terminal, which Mr. Ambassador liked so much, we carry out the reconstruction of the historical building of the terminal built in the 50s of the last century. Moreover, a temporary terminal is built to receive the "peak" number of the fans during the EURO 2012 matches.

The second big construction site is an Independence Square which is one of the biggest in Europe. As a private investor, I build a 5* hotel here, which will be UEFA headquarters in Kharkov during the EURO 2012.

And finally, the third construction site is the picturesque place in the vicinity of Kharkov in the village Vysokyy. Next to the first construction phase of the training base of FC "Metallist", we are building a second stage – cottage town. It will be also used as a comfortable hotel after the EURO 2012.

EU: During two years of airport and stadium construction you have used a wide range of foreign materials/equipment, including those of Dutch origin. What are the other spheres in the current projects where any foreign experience and expertise might be needed?

AY: Regardless of the project focus, we always try our best to deliver an excellent product/object/service at the end. That is because Kharkov citizens deserve only the best – the best airport, the best hotel. In order to provide it, we apply for experience of the foreign experts, including Dutch ones. If we still have something to learn in the sphere of using modern materials and technologies, which do not have domestic equivalents in Ukraine, then why not use this opportunity?

EU: What infrastructural projects in Kharkov are planned to be launched after EURO 2012?

AY: We have an operational program for each object, both before and after the EURO 2012. There are matches being played at Metallist stadium, concerts as well; children play football on football fields of Academy, people simply walk and enjoy their time here. The first construction stage of the training base is the infrastructure of the FC "Metallist", this will be the place for our football club to train after the tournament. Concerning the airport, there is even nothing to discuss! Kharkov region and neighboring regions (Poltava region, Belgorod region of Russian Federation) have been suffering without normal "air gates" for a long time already. And the hotel on the Independence Square will be the first in Kharkov to be built according to 5* standards from the very beginning – this makes both, tourist and business image of the city. Not only we are going to build the top-quality hotel for the guests of the city, but we are also planning to create a leisure zone for city inhabitants. This will be a logical extension of the Independence Square as a traditional place for promenade.



EU: Is DCH Group involved in the development of a new transport system of the city? If yes, then in what way?

AY: Yes, indeed, - in that way that modernization of the public transport system of Kharkov is influenced by the airport reconstruction. And believe me, this objective is a very big task.

EU: Considering city preparation for the EURO 2012, what issues in the infrastructure development are of the biggest importance today?

AY: Among the objects which need most attention now, there are not any which could be defined as risky so far. We strictly stick to the time schedule, and in particular cases, even surpass it. So, all the projects under my supervision, which I have invested in and which I am responsible for, will be put into operation in time. I assure that.