

## **Invitation Letter Diplomatic briefing on February 12, 2024**

**Dear Distinguished Colleagues,**

We are delighted to extend our invitation to you for our monthly meeting of the IER experts (Kyiv, Ukraine), dedicated to a discussion of the Economic situation and challenges prevailing in January 2024. The meeting will be held online in ZOOM.

In January, real GDP growth remained close to December'23 figures according to the estimates of the IER experts. Exports were high due to improved logistics through Ukraine Sea Corridor, which allowed external trade by not only agricultural products but also ores. Still, agriculture is estimated to decline, while trade growth decelerated.

Fiscal situation is really challenging as January became a month with the lowest international assistance for the period of full-scale invasion.

We will delve into these and other topics in greater detail during our meeting.

Additionally, we will present findings from the January IER's Business Tendency Survey (#NRES), which indicated that performance indicators worsened as compared to December. The expectations are still optimistic. Shortage of labour remains an essential impediment to business operation.

Further insights into these critical economic dynamics will be shared during the meeting.

**The meeting will be held online via Zoom on February 12, 2024, Monday, from 12:00 to 13:00 (Kyiv time), which corresponds to 11:00 to 12:00 (CEST).**

English is a working language of the meeting.

**Keynote speakers:**

**Oleksandra Betliy**, macroeconomic, public finance, social and healthcare expert, IER Leading Research Fellow;

**Vitaliy Kravchuk**, macroeconomic, monetary policy and financial market expert, IER Leading Research Fellow;

**Oksana Kuziakiv**, IER Chief Executive, Head of the Center for Contemporary Society studies.

**English is a working language of the meeting.**

We sincerely hope that you can honor us with your presence.

Diplomatic Briefings represent an exclusive initiative by the IER, thoughtfully tailored to cater to the needs of diplomatic institutions, government entities, and central banks. We kindly request your discretion in refraining from sharing this invitation with individuals outside of your respective organizations.

Should you wish to extend this invitation to additional colleagues who would benefit from this discourse, we humbly request that you provide us with their contact information.

Please confirm if you plan to attend this event by sending e-mail to: Viktorya Zhovtenko, IER Communications Officer [zhovtenko@ier.kyiv.ua](mailto:zhovtenko@ier.kyiv.ua)

**Please do not forget to provide your e-mail address. We will use it to provide the link to Zoom and Presentations.**

***The Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER)*** is a well-known Ukrainian independent think tank established in 1999, focusing on economic research and policy consulting. The IER is a top Ukrainian think tank with internationally recognized expertise almost 20 years of experience in implementing projects on Ukraine's economic development funded by international donor organizations, i.e. SIDA, USAID, UNDP, World Bank Group and others. In 2017 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report the IER is one of the 140 Best Independent Think Tanks out of 6,500 surveyed, it is 49th in "Best Advocacy Campaign" category, 69th as best International Economics Think Tank and 86th best Think Tank in Central and Eastern Europe. The IER has successfully implemented multiple international donors projects related to the field of reform implementation in Ukraine. The IER successfully combines professional analysis with active involvement in public dialogue and advocacy and actively cooperates with Ukrainian national and regional authorities in issues related to strategic planning and policy development as well as policy implementation. The IER has the capacity for grant management and provides re-granting for capacity development to regional civil society organizations and media. The IER financial standing has been secured through projects as well as private contributions.

Kind regards,

Igor Burakovsky,  
IER Head of the Board