

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear European friends, dear Spanish friends,

My name is Viktoriia Komarysta. I am an Assistant Professor at the School of Biology of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Today I am so happy and grateful for the opportunity to be here and celebrate Europe Day together with you.

For the Ukrainians, the European Union is a model of society united by ideas of peace, freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, respect for different cultural identities, sustainable development, and other humanistic values. Ukrainian people decisively proved our civilization choice towards the European values during the Revolution of Dignity in 2014.

Russia, the successor of the totalitarian Soviet Union and successor of the Russian Empire, which used to be called the prison of nations, could not tolerate the free choice of the Ukrainian people. First, in 2014 it invaded Crimea, Luhansk, and Donetsk. Then on the 24th of February 2022, it carried out large-scale aggression against our country and started bombing our cities, houses of civilians. I had to save my family and escape from the bombing.

I am very grateful to the Spanish authorities for providing us protection and to the University of Valladolid for allowing me to work. I want to say thank you personally to professor Silvia Bolado for her immediate response to my application for help and for making my being here possible. I am very grateful to many-many people in Valladolid who help us and make our everyday life a little bit happier.

In Ukraine, my husband and I researched biological and “green” chemistry technologies. We always tried to implement our findings into practice and launched a research and manufacturing company in Ukraine. My family and I are starting a new life here, in Valladolid. Here we expect to contribute to the development of science and economy through the research and implementation of new sustainable industrial biotechnological processes.

Today, I want to express my gratitude to the European Union and all member states for their military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, for hosting the Ukrainian refugees, and for the sanctions they implement against the Russian aggressor. I am very grateful for the dedication of this year's Europe Day to solidarity with Ukraine.

We are together. We will stand, and we will win.

Glory to the European Union! Glory to Ukraine! Glory to Spain! ¡Gloria a España!