These coins celebrate a landmark event that brings closer the time of Ukraine's return to the European family of nations, in which Ukraine has always indirectly participated as a unique ethno-cultural group. Being an active participant in international life, Ukraine has played a prominent role in the history of Europe.

In the 11th century, Ukraine had many close dynastic ties with European states. In the latter half of the 13th century, Ukraine adopted the Magdeburg Law, showing that the country belonged to historical Europe, sharing its values and way of life. In Cossack times, Ukraine saw a great deal of development in education and culture. In particular, art in Ukraine developed under the influence of the European Baroque style, which in the country acquired the unique features of the Cossack Baroque.

The civilizational orientation of Ukraine towards the West is not only a tribute to the country's ancient historical ties, but also a way in which the Ukrainian nation can preserve itself. The slogan of this orientation should be the call of Mykola Khvylovy: "Away from Moscow!" towards civilized countries, the development of which is based on the national principles of their political systems.



The importance of the European project, the EU, lies in the fact that it is based on common values, such as democracy, humanism and human rights. Nations, various religious beliefs and traditions freely develop in the EU, which is also a single economic, social and humanitarian area.

Europe's substantial international aid program for Ukraine, in particular for the country's fight against russian aggression, is a building block for shaping a shared European future.

Europe, inspired by the courage and fierce resistance of the Ukrainian people, has shown that the democracies stand ready to fight for their values. After all, the granting to Ukraine of the status of candidate for EU membership when hostilities are taking place in the country and in the face of russia's continuing efforts to occupy Ukraine is a true manifestation of European support, unity and mutual assistance.

Designers – Volodymyr Taran, Oleksandr Kharuk, and Serhii Kharuk. Engraver – Volodymyr Demianenko. Computer-aided design – Yurii Lukianov.

## THE GRANTING OF THE STATUS OF CANDIDATE FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

