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April 30, 2015

Wish Lists

Ukraine To EU: Give more

Ukraine wants:

Investment	EU membership	Lethal weapons
Financial aid	Visa-free travel	Armed peacekeepers

EU To Ukraine: Do more

EU wants:

Rule of law	Reduced corruption	Fiscal responsibility
Deregulation	Deoligarchization	Decentralization



From left, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and European Council President Donald Tusk shake hands at the Ukraine-European Union Summit in Kyiv on April 27. An International Support For Ukraine Conference took place the next day. See story on page 2. (AFP)

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CURRENCY WATCH

Hr 23 to \$1

April 29 market rate



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West tells Ukraine to speed up its reforms

BY KYIV POST STAFF

What was initially billed as a donor conference for Ukraine ended up being rebranded as an International Support for Ukraine Conference on April 28. The conference came a day after a Ukraine-European Union Summit.

Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the European Commission, summed up the EU attitude towards Ukraine succinctly: Do more and we will give more.

"Reform must continue. It must be credible. It must be swift. It must be sustained," Juncker said. "You keep reforming, and we will keep supporting. That is the contract we are making with you."

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden also hammered home the Western point of view in a video message played at the conference. If Ukraine continues on the path to reform, the U.S. is prepared to give another \$2 billion in loan guarantees this year.

"You're fighting to build a democracy that respects the will of the people, instead of catering to the whims of the powerful; an economy where what you know matters more than who you know; a society under the rule of law, where the cancer of corruption is removed from the body politic and a measure of dignity is restored to the people's lives of Ukraine," Biden said.

Ukraine's political leaders sounded upbeat despite the continuing multibillion-dollar gap between what Ukraine needs to fight the war and fix the economy versus what Western donors are pledging.

At least \$2 billion alone, by the latest estimate, is needed to repair the war-torn eastern Donbas – assuming Russia stops its war today, which is highly unlikely.

Nonetheless, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk encouraged hundreds of conference participants in Kyiv's Olympic Stadium. "This is the right time to invest in Ukraine," Yatsenyuk said, while also managing to take a jab at the West for not helping Ukraine more financially and militarily.

From left, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on April 28 at Kyiv's Olympic Stadium. (Mykola Lazarenko)



"Not meaning to make comparisons, Greece has received \$300 billion but they have neither war nor Russian tanks (on their territory) and they are not fighting against a nuclear power. In turn, Ukraine has received \$30 billion in total support from the IMF and G-7 (most industrialized countries)," Yatsenyuk said.

European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Commissioner Johannes Hahn, however, said that the EU "is doing more than it has ever done for a country that is not a member."

President Petro Poroshenko, who opened the conference at 9 a.m. on April 28 with a brief speech, also called for more Western assistance to Ukraine. "Today Ukraine is one of the most promising places in the world to invest and we need your investment," he said.

He went on to quote Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the 32nd American president, who said during his 1933 inauguration speech amid the Great Depression: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Remarked Poroshenko: "I strongly feel these words are very relevant to my country. The Ukrainian people have proven they have no fear – on our front in

the east and on our front in providing reforms."

Poroshenko, himself an oligarch, listed his three pillars of reform as "de-oligarchization, deregulation and decentralization." He said that "like no one else, we are interested in seeing the results of this reform as soon as possible. Combatting corruption remains our absolute top priority."

Western officials praised recent reform efforts by Kyiv's government, describing them as the most impressive since national independence in 1991, but urged officials to pick up the pace.

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt said that "the Ukrainian people would like the process to move faster than this. We would also like to see the process move faster, because the faster it moves the more quickly we will be able to help, the more likely that we are going to be successful in our effort to encourage American companies to look at all the opportunities, to take another look at Ukraine."

But some at the conference said there is a good reason why Western aid is coming in modest amounts and then only with stringent conditions.

After talking to several delegates, Ukrainian blogger Vasyl Arbuzov summarized the atmosphere by citing

ex-Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko's post on his Facebook page that the West was disappointed with the slow pace.

"In fact they aren't tired, they're stunned and bewildered," Arbuzov said. "For the first time the donors frankly told the government representatives up in their faces that the whole world is perfectly aware that not only haven't the president and the prime minister done anything to battle corruption, but that they even are presiding over a corrupt system. The perception is that the new leadership, who were lifted into their positions by blood, have become the leading thieves in the country."

Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko rejected Arbuzov's argument. "I think we've made substantial progress and I think we have a very ambitious program going forward. We have to act now," Jaresko said.

The conference featured one speech after another by mainly EU officials and ministers from several nations. By mid-day, the talks grew repetitious and monotonous. The afternoon schedule featured four simultaneous sessions on investment, agriculture, energy and the reconstruction of Donbas in overcrowded rooms.

The lack of heads of state from Western states was noticeable and explains why the original plan for a donor conference had to be scrapped. The only foreign prime minister on the agenda was Latvian Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma.

While Poroshenko said that Ukraine would be ready to meet the requirements for EU membership in five years, Tim Ash, the analyst for Standard Bank in London, observed that Ukraine must have been disappointed by no agreement on visa-free travel and "no offer of any real and clear EU membership perspective."

This article was written by Kyiv Post chief editor Brian Bonner based on reporting by Roman Olearchyk, Johannes Wamberg Andersen, Ilya Timchenko and Olena Gordienko.

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Reform Watch

Editor's Note: The Kyiv Post tracks the progress made by Ukraine's post-EuroMaidan Revolution leaders in making structural changes in the public interest in five key areas: security & defense, energy, rule of law, public administration and land.

Editor's Note: Amid looted state coffers and an armed invasion, Ukraine is both recovering and waging war on two fronts – against corruption and against combined Russian-separatist forces in the east. The Kyiv Post is tracking the changes and challenges.

1 Security & Defense

Ukrainian national guardsmen started a six-month training program on April 20 with 290 U.S. paratroopers in western Ukraine's Yavoriv. "We will be conducting classes on war-fighting functions, as well as training to sustain and increase the professionalism and proficiency of military staffs," Major Jose Mendez, operations officer of the brigade, said.

Addressing criticism that foreign assistance for Ukraine's armed forces hadn't arrived when urgently needed last year, President Petro Poroshenko said that Ukraine wasn't ready then due to corruption within the army and infiltration by Russian agents.

"In the past six months we have changed the military, with the help of volunteers and due to decisive actions by new officials at the Ministry of Defense and in the Ukrainian General Staff," Poroshenko said.

Also, on April 23, Parliament simplified the procedure for obtaining citizenship by foreigners fighting on the Ukrainian side of Russia's war.

The Verkhovna Rada also on April 9 sanctioned the use of a simplified bidding procedure to accelerate state procurement for construction of military fortifications.

2 Energy

On April 22, hundreds of coal miners protested in Kyiv to stop the closure of 11 mines. Mustafa Nayem, a former investigative journalist who is now a politician, accused billionaire oligarch Rinat Ahmetov of staging the protest to pressure the Ukrainian government for subsidies to coal mines owned by his DTEK company. The energy holding company denied the accusations.

On April 9, Parliament took a long-awaited step aimed at breaking up monopolies and opening up the natural gas market to competition. By an overwhelming majority of 290 votes, the legislature adopted a set of measures that pave the way toward separating the functions of extraction, distribution and sale of natural gas. This process, known as unbundling, should bring an end to the convoluted structure of state gas company Naftogaz. Government plans also envision raising gas and heating prices to market levels and reducing subsidies, thus eliminating the company's historically huge deficit by 2017.

The reform was one of the key conditions of a March \$17.5-billion rescue package by the International Monetary Fund.

Ukraine's gas market is now formally in line with the European Union's Third Energy Package, which aims to eliminate conflicts of interests on the market, ensure transparency and boost competition. Analysts are concerned that the implementation process could take several years and that oligarch influence could obstruct reform.

Subsidized energy prices have favored larger consumers and created opportunities for rent-seekers with corrupt access to cheap gas. Millions of poorer households will now be subject to a system of targeted subsidies to cover higher utility bills.

3 Rule of Law

Speaking at a Kyiv School of Economics symposium on April 25, former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst accused the top leadership of Ukraine of abuse of office.

"They say all the right things, but they prospered under the old regime and the old rules were convenient for them when they were a minister. Imagine how good the rules are for you when you are above that level. In that situation you can't

expect good progress. Currently we again see a movement of assets up to the vertical of power."

Others speakers at the forum remained optimistic, believing that an alliance of civil society, young reformers and Western donors could check high-level corruption.

Ukraine has begun the task of transforming its police force, hoping to convert it into an effective and honest law enforcement agency. The changes are being piloted in Kyiv and comprehensively c o u l d take-up

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High Council of Justice, a favored tool by former President Viktor Yanukovich for putting pressure on the judiciary.

The appointment of former prosecutorial investigator Artem Sytnyk as head of a newly established and much-hyped National Anti-Corruption Bureau on April 16 ended a three-month search. Sytnyk has yet to hire most of the 700 personnel or find premises.

"The front line of fighting against corruption isn't less important than the front line that Ukrainian heroes are holding in Ukraine's east,"

Poroshenko said when he introduced the 35-year-old as the first chief of the corruption fighting agency.

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Russia is concerned that it could be victim of dumping by EU goods falsely rebranded as made-in-Ukraine via an existing free-trade arrangement among former Soviet republics. Zerkal said that all issues concerning the origin of goods could be solved bilaterally, pending Russia's resolve.

The free-trade zone is the core element of the far-reaching association agreement between the EU and Ukraine, signed in 2014.

A major deregulation bill took effect on April 7. The law cuts 38 required permits, certificates and approvals previously required in many areas, from the import of live animals to the reprocessing of scrap metal. This stage of deregulation is expected to bring at least Hr 40 billion in extra tax revenue to the state budget over the next five years.

"The deregulation law significantly decreases the regulatory burden in a number of directions," said Andrew Zablotsky of the Sayenko Kharenko law firm. "It will allow businesses to reduce their costs and reduce corruption."

Economy Minister Aivaras Abromavicius estimates that a further 177 licenses will have to be abolished.

On April 9, Parliament approved a law granting free access to public information online. The law is expected to decrease corruption in public procurement and increase transparency.

Earlier on April 8, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk announced that the Single State Register of Legal Entities is now accessible online.

Information about any enterprise in the registry can now be obtained for a Hr 45 fee by completing an online request. This initiative is being carried out in concert with a new law obliging all legal entities to disclose and update information about their ultimate beneficial owners by May 25 on the state registry.

The Cabinet of Ministers on March 18 cancelled a resolution that eliminated the monopoly of state-owned waste management company Ukrekoresursy.

The European Business Association hailed the monopoly's breakup as a "corrupt scheme" that was "stamped out." "Throughout all these (14) years, Ukrekoresursy raised about Hr 30 million per month on importers fees," EBA said in an online statement on March 18. "The companies had to pay great sums of money on a so-called package waste management system. But nothing was done whatsoever."

Thus, the measure could eventually pave the way for the emergence of a contemporary waste packaging management system, improve recycling and create thousands of jobs in waste management.

5 Land

The new deregulation law that went into effect on April 7 also improves land-lease regulation; and a Cabinet of Ministers resolution simplifies the procedure for submitting and obtaining documents on the state registration of property rights.

On March 25, a law specifying the authority of notaries and rules of registration of derivative property rights to agricultural land plots went into effect.

The law opens access to the state land cadaster for notaries, improves content of the State Register of Property Rights to Real Estate, and simplifies the registration of property rights to agricultural land. Until now, corruption has been widespread in this sphere, with officials taking bribes in return for real estate ownership information.

4 Public Administration

Russia has put renewed pressure on the European Union to delay the launch of a free-trade zone with Ukraine until 2017. In 2014, Russia was successful in postponing its full implementation until 2016. The EU rejected Russia's latest move and declared that the free trade zone is on track to take effect as scheduled.

The Ukrainian deputy foreign minister responsible for European integration, Yelena Zerkal, on April 23 confirmed that the country is preparing to open its market for goods from the EU at the beginning of next year.

Pictured in collage:

1. Ukrainian soldiers at the April 20 opening ceremony of the joint Ukraine-U.S. military exercise in Lviv Oblast (Ukrafoto)

2. Ukrainian coal miners protest mine closings and cuts to subsidies in Kyiv on April 22. (Volodymyr Petrov)

3. Ukraine Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk during a Cabinet of Ministers meeting on Jan. 28. (Volodymyr Petrov)

4. A Ukrainian traffic police officer speaks with a motorist in 2013. (Ukrafoto)

5. An aerial view of fields in Kyiv Oblast at harvest time on July 27, 2012. (Ukrafoto)

By Johannes Wamberg Andersen and Mariana Antonovych

Editorials

More for more

Ukraine's pro-Western leaders are struggling to keep this war-torn, recession-battered and increasingly desperate nation afloat. The country needs massive Western help, more than the estimated \$40 billion committed so far, mostly in loans. But as this week's summit with the European Union and International Support for Ukraine Conference in Kyiv showed, the West is in no mood to write blank checks to Ukraine.

The West's message is clear: Do more reforms and we will give you more financial aid.

The EU describes itself as the biggest international donor to Ukraine, with €6 billion already mobilized out of a €11 billion support package. While European leaders praised Kyiv for achievements since Viktor Yanukovich fled power last year, they urged Ukraine's politicians to speed up and thoroughly overhaul economic and political institutions stuck in the corrupt Soviet era.

Western leaders are right to push Kyiv's leaders, who will likely not act without such external pressure combined with internal pressure from Ukrainians who want to trade an impoverished oligarchy for a prosperous democracy.

But the West should not be waiting to arm Kyiv to defend itself against Russia's invasion. The West should also marshal the resources, whether individually or acting in concert, to help Ukraine secure its borders through armed peacekeepers.

Western leaders still don't understand the grave international consequences of Russia's actions.

That's why it was disturbing to hear some European officials, through anonymous comments in the Financial Times, urge Kyiv to go beyond the February Minsk agreements by granting self-governing status to Russia's separatist warlords before a planned regional election is held. The faulty logic justifies such appeasement as essential to stopping Vladimir Putin's military advances, when the opposite is true -- Putin will be stopped only by a show of force.

The West, including the United States, has not lived up to its moral obligations to Ukraine. It's only fair to demand reduced corruption, greater transparency and more democracy in exchange for more financial aid. But the war is completely different. To win it, Ukraine needs and deserves more help now. The West will have to give more if it wants Ukraine to do more to end the war. Anything less smacks of Western hypocrisy and spinelessness in the face of Russia's threat. Remember, there would be no war without Putin.

Donbas dilemma

The Minsk cease-fire agreement in February is a bad joke. Russia and its proxies could very well go on the offensive soon. They lust for more territory because they know that if they meet resistance, Russian regulars will always come to the rescue with superior manpower and advanced weapons. It is, perhaps, high time for Kyiv to ante up: either let the separatist-controlled territories go, fortifying positions to prevent further territorial losses, or take tangible steps towards reuniting the nation.

The gap between most of Ukraine and the separatist-held territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts is growing.

During a recent visit to Donetsk, ordinary residents said they were sick of being made to feel like citizens of a foreign country, forced to go through torturous, day-long Ukrainian checkpoints just to get home -- a home that is still part of the country but treated like a separate universe by the government.

When asked how he felt about Alexander Zakharchenko, the Kremlin-backed separatist leader in Donetsk, one resident said:

"Zakharchenko's OK."

"And (President Petro) Poroshenko?"

"Well, Poroshenko is not here. Zakharchenko is."

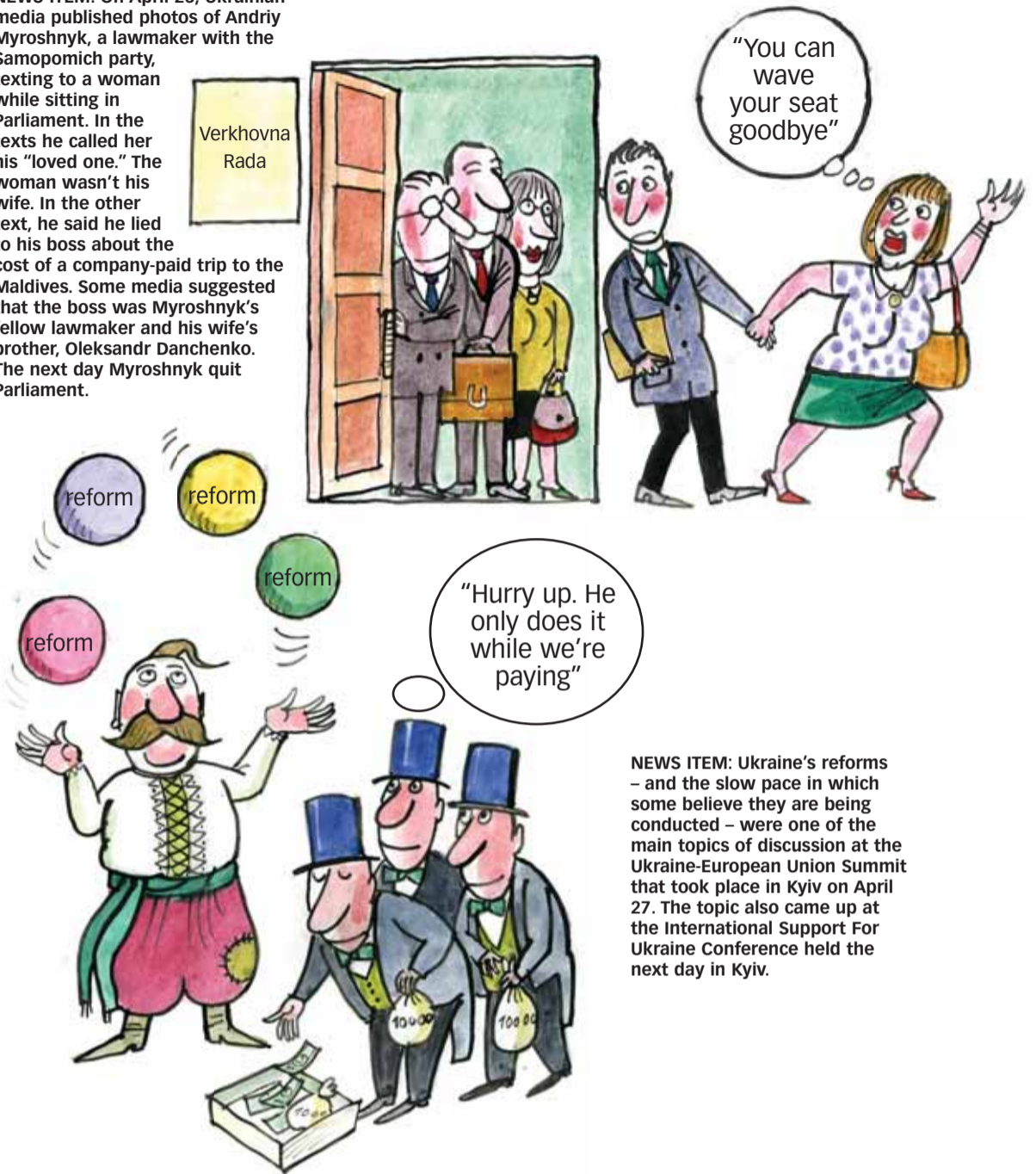
Although he was simply making an offhand remark, the Donbas resident was right. How can residents in the east be expected to support a leadership that doesn't acknowledge they exist?

With the death toll in this year-long conflict now at more than 6,000 people, the east's detachment from the rest of the country is dangerous for Ukraine. As one Kyiv Post journalist who has lived in Moscow and who returned from Donetsk this week said: "It feels like Russia there." Kyiv's laws don't govern there and civil servant salaries and pensions don't get paid out anymore.

Moreover, the informational divide is growing as well. Russians don't let in Ukrainian reporters or Western reporters whose coverage they don't like, especially if they are from Kyiv. All too often, Ukraine's government is doing the same to Russian journalists who, unfortunately, act more as state propagandists. It will be hard to have a public debate under such circumstances, let alone persuade both sides to find common ground.

A breakthrough needs to take place to heal a broken nation. This will take reinforcing connections to the Donbas, not cutting them. At a minimum, Ukraine's officials should spend a day going through the checkpoints that separate mainland Ukraine from the Russian-controlled areas of the Donbas. The experience will drive home the point of how divided Ukraine has become.

NEWS ITEM: On April 23, Ukrainian media published photos of Andriy Myroshnyk, a lawmaker with the Samopomich party, texting to a woman while sitting in Parliament. In the texts he called her his "loved one." The woman wasn't his wife. In the other text, he said he lied to his boss about the cost of a company-paid trip to the Maldives. Some media suggested that the boss was Myroshnyk's fellow lawmaker and his wife's brother, Oleksandr Danchenko. The next day Myroshnyk quit Parliament.



NEWS ITEM: Ukraine's reforms -- and the slow pace in which some believe they are being conducted -- were one of the main topics of discussion at the Ukraine-European Union Summit that took place in Kyiv on April 27. The topic also came up at the International Support For Ukraine Conference held the next day in Kyiv.

West needs new ways to help Ukraine win



MICHAEL BLEYZER, EDILBERTO SEGURA AND DAVID KRAMER

Ukraine's road towards prosperity needs a new approach, with support from both Ukrainian business and the international community.

Despite a sizeable \$17.5 billion loan to Ukraine announced by the International Monetary Fund in March, there is a disconcerting sense that Western leaders are losing interest in the country.

Not surprisingly, no new aid packages for Ukraine were announced at the recent meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Meanwhile, U.S. President Barack Obama still refuses to provide military assistance to help Ukraine defend itself against further Russian aggression.

Since Russia's invasion more than a year ago, Obama has yet to visit Ukraine in a show of solidarity. Fighting in the eastern part of the country continues, albeit on a smaller scale, despite the February Minsk ceasefire agreement, while the European Union struggles to maintain unity among its 28 members and renew sanctions against Russia ahead of its June summit.

In short, Ukrainian leaders, grateful for the support they have so far received, nonetheless realize they cannot rely on the West to save them from further calamity. Western leaders should be doing more to help Ukraine, a country of 46 million people. This, in turn, would stop Putin's growing threat to Europe. If Russian President Vladimir Putin's objective is

to destabilize the Ukrainian economy, the Western response should be focused on economic stabilization and financial assistance.

Until then, Ukraine's leaders will need to work with its business elite and foreign investors doing business in Ukraine to stem the damage caused by Putin. But Western governments and international lending agencies should not be left off the hook. We propose a three-pronged approach that relies on all interested parties -- Ukrainians and the international community -- actively supporting Ukraine in its hour of need:

Social stabilization program

Establish a Social Stabilization Fund for several Ukrainian regions adjacent to the war zone. These regions should include Kharkiv, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, and possibly Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odessa.

The most critical region at the moment is Kharkiv, and it needs to be given a very high priority. A large segment of the population in Kharkiv Oblast is so discouraged by events and by the constant bombardment of Russian propaganda that they could be supportive of a Russian invasion or an attempt to establish a so-called People's Republic.

However, a series of decisive measures aimed at improving economic conditions in these areas could affect the mood of the population dramatically and make them strong supporters of an independent Ukraine. Therefore, establishing a Social Stabilization Fund is urgently needed to help local communities in the most affected regions.

Such a fund would provide emergency funds to enable local communities to implement micro-projects, such as improvements in local water supply, sanitation and sewage, improvements in schools, libraries, hospitals, local roads, and infrastructure.

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Stevan Dojcinovic, member of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project from Serbia, gives a lecture on journalism security at the estate of former President Viktor Yanukovich during the first MezhyhiraFest in 2014 (Anastasia Vlasova).

MezhyhiraFest showcases top journalism in Ukraine



VLAD LAVROV
AND
KATYA
GORCHINSKAYA

For the second time, organizers of MezhyhiraFest are going to bring together more than 300 journalists and public activists on June 6-7, establishing a tradition of celebrating the Journalist's Day in the former billion-dollar estate of runaway President Viktor Yanukovich, who continues to hide out from murder and corruption charges in Russia.

This year the festival's main theme will be security, with the majority of panels and workshops will be devoted to its three aspects: security of journalists, security of information and economic security of the country.

Additionally, for the first time since the beginning of Russia's war in the Donbas the conference will give special attention to the subject of investigating war crimes and mistakes of the military command that led to severe casualties.

Until now, it has been an uncomfortable subject for both the Ukrainian journalists and the country's leadership. Journalists have preferred to gloss over when it came to looking into alleged crimes committed by Ukrainian army and volunteer battalions.

To talk about the issue and teach the participants the skills and methods used for such investigations the festival will bring together the representatives of International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, the International Center of Transitional Justice, as well as the journalists involved in investigating the Balkan War crimes.

Our main goal is to raise awareness of the fact that many Ukrainian journalists are working in extremely dangerous conditions without proper training and equipment, with the managers of news organizations being rather reckless about their staff. We expect that with the two days of intensive trainings on working in

war conditions, participants will improve their safety skills, which will raise the quality of Ukraine's military reporting to a new level.

Additionally, the participants will receive information regarding the organizations that can provide further information on security issues and specifics of working in the military zones, as well as assist media organizations in getting more advanced security trainings and obtaining security gear for journalists.

In 2014, during the first MezhyhiraFest, we experimented merging representatives of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies and FBI with Ukrainian journalists to have joint panels and off-the-record meetings, which in some cases has led to prolonged cooperation efforts and information exchange. It's worth pointing out that the recent decision of Interpol to issue an international search warrant for Yanukovich and a number of his government members was based solely on economic crimes, such as "misappropriation, embezzlement or conversion of property" illegally. These crimes had been investigated in depth by journalists who took part in these panels and meetings.

Therefore, this year we plan to continue the practice by organizing joint panels of journalists and representative of military agencies and courts with journalists, as well as a number of informal discussions, seeking to find common ground in their work and overcome the difficulties they face interacting with each other.

We are also making an effort to bring together head of two investigative units, Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau and the European Anti-Fraud Office to explore potential inter-agency and international cooperation, which is becoming increasingly more important as financial crimes become more complex and require special knowledge and skills.

In addition, the festival has become the venue for an award ceremony for investigative journalism. The award was established last year, and this year our effort has been merged with that of Ukrainska Pravda, the nation's top news website, to establish the National Award for the Best Investigation, which we

deemed as Ukraine's equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize.

The awards to be given on June 6 are:

National Award for the Best Investigation, that will include a bronze statue and 1,000 Euros;

A series of awards for the best young investigative journalists with a trip to the U.S. being first prize and cameras and equipment given to runners up;

Our new Georgiy Gongadze award. This year the Gongadze award will be given for the best war report (in print and video categories) and the winners will be sent to the United Kingdom for the best security training for journalists available internationally.

Another important aspect of this conference is to create a platform for networking for investigative journalists, regional journalists and aspiring journalists, as well as donors and other parties interested in promoting the genre of investigative journalism in Ukraine.

We aim to make the award and the conference an institution, the place to be and the most prestigious award to receive if you are a journalist and aspire to do more than just everyday news. Ukraine has few such platforms for investigative journalists.

Another indirect impact of the conference stems from the place where it is set up. We think that gathering investigative journalists and whistle-blowers in the former residence of Yanukovich, who acquired the opulent estate through corruption brought to light by journalists, is a fantastic way of reminding the ruling elite that they are being watched and none of their crimes will go unreported.

Moreover, last year we exposed Ukrainian journalists and whistleblowers to a lot of international speakers who talked about advanced reporting techniques, the future of the Internet and other issues that are typically off the radar for the Ukrainian journalists. We think that ability to plug into the international community is important and can have many direct and indirect advantages for Ukrainian journalists.

Vlad Lavrov, a Kyiv Post staff writer, is regional editor of the Washington, D.C.-based Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project. Katya Gorchinskaya is managing editor of investigations for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Kyiv.



Did you have to change your vacation plans because of the hryvnia's devaluation?



Olena Ilina,
student
"This summer I am going to find a job that would allow me to rest too. Maybe somewhere in Odesa."

Recently when I was in Prague I realized that all the prices increased three times. In earlier trips I could buy some souvenirs, but now I had money only for transport, food and tours."



Kateryna Kornychuk,
artist
"The dollar has really influenced my choice of vacation destination. My family will not travel abroad this year. I understood that a long time ago. We will stay somewhere in the Carpathians and support green tourism. People are very hospitable there, and the nature is incredible. Frankly, we don't have a choice – vacations abroad became three times more expensive."

travel abroad this year. I understood that a long time ago. We will stay somewhere in the Carpathians and support green tourism. People are very hospitable there, and the nature is incredible. Frankly, we don't have a choice – vacations abroad became three times more expensive."



Volodymyr Melnik,
entrepreneur
"The dollar has no influence on my vacation at all, because I always travel inside Ukraine – to western Ukraine, or the Carpathians or Odesa. I haven't yet looked for a particular place, but I hope prices there didn't rise more than 20 percent."

western Ukraine, or the Carpathians or Odesa. I haven't yet looked for a particular place, but I hope prices there didn't rise more than 20 percent."



Sergii Tretiak,
pensioner
"Rest is sacred, so the dollar rate can't cancel it. We are going to Turkey on May 18, and

after we will travel to France. Usually in winter we go skiing somewhere. But I'm a renter and my income is in dollars."



Natalia Ivanova,
tourism manager
"I planned to go to Spain, but now the prices closed the border for me. I will

make some economical choice – Truskavets, for example. I work in the tourism sector, so I see that trips abroad decreased significantly."

Expatriate to Watch

Lithuanian takes on ombudsman's role to improve business climate in Ukraine

BY BRIAN BONNER
BRIBONNER@GMAIL.COM

Algirdas Semeta has witnessed amazing transformations in his life, especially in his native Lithuania.

The 53-year-old has seen his small Baltic homeland go from being a Soviet republic to a full-fledged member of the European democratic family of nations, joining the European Union and NATO in 2004.

"We really dreamed that we will become independent," Semeta said. "My parents, my grandparents remember the time of independence between the first and second world war and telling us stories about that time."

In his role in the newly created position of Ukraine's business ombudsman, Semeta hopes to take part in another transformation that many think is impossible: a sharp enough reduction in Ukraine's endemic corruption to spur private investment and improve living standards.

To get there, Semeta will need to muster all the discipline and talent that made him a master of sports in gymnastics while growing up in the Soviet Union. He will have a staff of 14 people and a \$1.5 million budget to help him (although he would not disclose his salary during a recent interview). The Business Ombudsman Council is funded through a European Bank for Reconstruction and Development multi-donor account. The money comes from 10 governments, mostly European, but also the United States and Japan.

He can also tap into the goodwill that Ukrainians have for Lithuanians, especially its president, Dalia Grybauskaitė, one of Ukraine's most stalwart allies in taking a tough stance against Russia's war in the Donbas and annexation of Crimea.

Semeta also joins a team of foreign-

ers, including a handful of Lithuanians who have taken up key posts in Ukraine as part of the government's belated drive to make a decisive break from its Soviet past and adopt democratic political and economic changes that will be accepted in the West.

Other Lithuanians in influential positions include: Economy Minister Aivaras Abromavicius; Economy Ministry adviser Adomas Audickas, a former Lithuanian deputy economy minister; former Lithuanian Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius, who serves on Ukraine's International Advisory Council for Reforms; and Nerijus Udrenas, a former adviser to the Lithuanian president who assists in the implementation of Ukraine's association agreement with the EU.

When asked if the fellow countrymen helped him get his new job, he quipped: "All Lithuanians are friends, there are not so many of us." About the second part, at least, he's right: Lithuania has only 3 million people.

Semeta is a former finance minister in Lithuania, serving from 1997 to 1999 and again from 2008-2009. But, perhaps even more importantly to Ukraine, he has broad experience as an EU commissioner, first for financial programming and budget, from 2009-2010, and then for taxation, customs, statistics, audit and anti-fraud, from 2010-2014.

During his most recent EU post, dramatic advances came in banking transparency, essential to cracking down on money laundering and tax evasion.

"During my mandate, we adopted a directive that abolishes banking secrecy in the European Union," Semeta said. "It requires all the banks in the European Union to exchange information with tax authorities." He said an end to banking secrecy will be pushed globally.

"This is a huge achievement which

Algirdas Semeta

Job: Business Ombudsman in Ukraine

Birth: 1962

Family: Wife, four children

Nationality: Lithuanian

Now you know: Master of sports in all-around gymnastics during Soviet Union

How to succeed in Ukraine: "If the political will to make reforms will remain strong...that should lead to the success. If you look at the fundamentals, Ukraine is really the country with huge potential. What one needs to do is to fix the weaknesses."



I am proud of," Semeta said. He also cited his involvement in the EU's adoption of a new, electronic customs code and the strengthening of the EU's anti-fraud agency in investigating misspent public funds.

While he's been on the job in Ukraine since December, Semeta has been waiting for adoption of rules of procedures that guide his work. Weighing in are the Cabinet of Ministers, business associations and financial institutions.

Persuasion, however, will likely be his strongest tool.

The job of business ombudsman, like its human rights counterpart, does not come with law enforcement powers. "It is not common for a business ombudsman to have such powers," he said. But he said that the ombudsman position in other nations has been influential in improving business environments and serving as a first point of contact for companies seeking redress against unfair treatment.

"There's a lot of work ahead. It's

clear that corruption remains one of the most important problems in Ukraine, after the war," he said. "There have been many problems that have contributed to the level of corruption," including cumbersome rules and attitudes of government regulators.

He said the position will be "driven by the needs of the business community." He will work closely with business associations. Semeta will also soon begin accepting complaints online or by email on "malpractice and other violations" by government agencies or state-controlled companies. He will investigate which ones deserve his attention and will study the patterns.

"They will show us which areas, from the business perspective are the most problematic ones," he said.

While Lithuania is not corruption-free, he said the nation's process of adapting legislation to EU rules "reduced the level of subjectivity in the decision-making process." With other

Baltic states, "we made very significant progress in the past years" in reducing corruption, he said.

For example, in contrast to Ukraine's tax inspection service, considered as one of the nation's most corrupt institutions, Lithuanian businesspeople regard the tax inspection service there "as the most business-friendly institution in the country." Keys to restoring trust and reducing opportunities for corruption include making taxation predictable, fair, transparent and automated -- to "reduce the personal links," he said.

He also said that, in Lithuania, government regulatory agencies employ more positive and less punitive methods in getting compliance. For example, he said that businesses are given clear standards and opportunities to fix problems before the government agencies resort to heavy-handed inspections and fines.

Success in Ukraine will also depend on the performance of Ukraine's newly created Anti-Corruption Bureau in sending a "strong signal to the general public that the situation is changing." The bureau's success depends on how quickly it "will be able to demonstrate positive results in tackling high-level corruption," he said.

While Semeta expects to regularly report to the public his findings, he will avoid "naming and shaming" violators in the mass media. "It's a last resort," he said of his preference for relying on persuasion with politicians and officials to make changes.

Regarding the war against Ukraine, which threatens to overshadow all other issues facing the nation, Semeta favors a unified response by the EU against Russian aggression. "If the EU is somehow divided, it will send a signal of weakness."

Kyiv Post chief editor Brian Bonner can be reached at bribonner@gmail.com



Leaders meet for breakfast

The Kyiv Post and DHL Express Ukraine on April 24 hosted a breakfast meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The two-hour talk called "Leadership on the line" drew many executives to talk about managing during crisis. The attendees included Sasha Borovik, first deputy economy minister; Grzegorz Chmielarski, CEO of McDonald's Ukraine; Vadim Sidoruk, CEO of DHL Express Ukraine; Andriy Bulakh, managing partner of Deloitte Ukraine; Evgeniy Romaschin, former CEO of Corum Group; Simon Cherniavsky of CEO Mriya Agro Holding; Anna Derevyanko, executive director of the European Business Association; Alex Lissitsa, CEO of Industrial Milk Company; Andriy Sheliug, CEO of NIKO Management; Lenna Koszarny, CEO of Horizon Capital; Renato Ruszczyk, CEO of Lactalis; Yuriy Golianych, CEO of Mondelez International; Nadiia Vasylieva, general manager of Microsoft Ukraine; Tamas Hak-Kovacs, CEO of OTP Bank and Nikolay Syutkin, managing partner of Syutkin & Partners (Volodymyr Petrov)

Expert speakers, 23 companies will be at Kyiv Post Employment Fair

BY BOZHENA SHEREMETA
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At least 23 employers are participating in the May 16 Kyiv Post Employment Fair that more than 1,000 job seekers attended in September. The event will take place at its usual venue, the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce at 33 Velyka Zhytomyrska Street.

The list of the participating companies, speakers and workshops is not yet finalized and registration is still possible.

Confirmed speakers at this year's fair include Sasha Borovik, deputy economy minister, Dimitri Podoliev, co-founder of the iHub business space and the chairman of Seed Forum Ukraine network, and Vyacheslav Klimov, co-founder of the Nova Poshta delivery service.

They will speak about employer

needs in the public and private sectors amid the rapid changes brought on by Ukraine's multiple crises.

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, the global professional accounting body that gives the Chartered Certified Accountant qualification, will hold a professional workshop on the organization's activities and available career opportunities.

The National Bank of Ukraine and state-owned oil and gas conglomerate Naftogaz will also announce their vacancies. Kyivgaz, a supplier, distributor and transporter of oil and gas, seeks a commercial director and a qualified specialist to head its finance department.

The economy, education and ecology ministries will occupy booths and recruit potential candidates.

METRO Cash & Carry Ukraine,

one of the most active employers on the retail market, is seeking new staff members. After arriving on the market in 2003, the company has invested more than €550 million into the development of its operations in Ukraine. It is now present in 22 cities.

Auchan, an international grocer on the Ukrainian market, has become an employer to almost 4,000 people. It is searching for qualified specialists too.

Key specialists from the two grocers' Ukrainian offices will also conduct professional workshops.

Dairy producer Danone Ukraine will be present as it celebrates 15 years on the local market.

Three of the so-called Big Four auditors, PwC, EY and KPMG are taking part. They're seeking top-notch specialists with extensive expertise in financial auditing, tax, consulting and advisory services.

Crunch time near in talks to restructure Ukraine's debts

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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Ukraine's most pressing challenge in coming weeks is to restructure its sovereign debt, freeing up \$15.3 billion over the next four years as part of an overall \$40 billion financing package that includes a \$17.5 billion International Monetary Fund loan.

As Ukraine's top Western creditor, the IMF is pressing Kyiv to wrap up the debt restructuring talks before its next board meeting in June, when a decision will be reached on whether to disburse a second tranche from its bailout package. But some insiders

point to September as a final deadline. Two sovereign eurobonds come due this year, the earliest being its \$500 million note on Sept. 23.

Earlier this month, Ukraine rejected a proposal from a five-member creditor group that holds more than half of its international sovereign bonds, saying it didn't go far enough in meeting IMF targets because it only involved a maturity extension, Bloomberg reported on April 24.

Apart from saving \$15.3 billion, the IMF has set targets of bringing the ratio of public and publicly guaranteed debt-to-gross domestic product to below 71 percent by 2020. The third is to

keep the state budget's gross financing needs at an average of 10 percent of gross domestic product in the 2019-2025 period, according to Bloomberg.

Restructuring will most likely involve a combination of maturity extensions, reduction on principal and cutting or raising coupons. Ukraine is reportedly negotiating on a bond-by-bond basis.

Eurobonds of state-owned enterprises Ukreximbank, Oschadbank and railway monopoly Ukrzaliznytsia are treated differently because they don't have state guarantees. The status of a \$3 billion bond sold to Russia, considered a holdout in the eurobond talks, is also in question.

Ukrainian sovereign and quasi-sovereign eurobonds

	Coupon (%)	Maturity date	Volume (millions)
Ukraine 2015 (\$)	6.88	9/23/2015	500
Ukraine 2015 (euro)	4.95	10/13/2015	600
Ukraine 2016 (\$)	6.25	6/17/2016	1,250
Ukraine 2016 (\$)	6.58	11/21/2016	1,000
Ukraine 2017 (\$)	9.25	7/24/2017	2,600
Ukraine 2017 (\$*)	8.38	11/3/2017	568
Ukraine 2017 (\$)	6.75	11/14/2017	700
Ukraine 2017 (\$*)	9.00	12/7/2017	550
Ukraine 2018 (\$*)	7.40	4/20/2018	690
Ukraine 2020 (\$)	7.75	9/23/2020	1,500
Ukraine 2021 (\$)	7.95	2/23/2021	1,500
Ukraine 2022 (\$)	7.80	11/28/2022	2,250
Ukraine 2023 (\$)	7.50	4/17/2023	1,250
Corporate eurobonds of state-owned enterprises			
Ukreximbank 15	8.38	7/27/2015	750
Ukreximbank 16	5.79	2/9/2016	125
Ukreximbank 18	8.75	1/22/2018	600
Oschadbank 16	8.25	3/10/2016	700
Oschadbank 18	8.88	3/20/2018	500
Ukrzaliznytsya 18	9.50	5/21/2018	500

*Three bonds worth in total of more than \$1.8 were issued by a state-owned company in charge of infrastructure projects ahead of the 2012 European soccer championship that Ukraine co-hosted that year with Poland.

Source: Dragon Capital, Bloomberg

Ukraine sovereign debt, March 31, 2015, \$billion

	March 31, 2015, \$billion	Monthly change, \$billion
Sovereign debt, total	65.02	6.91
Government debt	54.06	4.63
domestic debt	21.28	2.19
external debt	32.78	2.45
Guaranteed debt	10.97	2.27
domestic debt	1.16	0.17
external debt	9.81	2.11

A \$4.9 billion International Monetary Fund disbursement partially caused a monthly increase in public debt in March. A monthly 18.4 percent appreciation of the official hryvnia exchange rate in March was also behind the spike. The Finance Ministry didn't hold primary Treasury auctions last month due to the state budget running a cash surplus based on provisional data, according to Kyiv-based Dragon Capital investment bank.

Source: Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, Investment Capital Ukraine LLC

Ukraine got some breathing room this week when bondholders of state-owned Import-Export Bank of Ukraine voted to extend the maturity of its 2015 bond for three months – they were to mature on April 27. Concorde Capital, in a note to investors on April 29, said the bank now is seeking approval on restructuring its \$750 million notes under the following conditions: 50 percent of outstanding amount will be repaid by April 27, 2019, and the rest in six equal semi-annual installments between October 2019 and April 2022; the coupon rate on the bond will be raised to 9.625 percent from 8.375 percent.

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Donetsk checkpoints that divide a nation

BY ALLISON QUINN
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MARYNKA, Ukraine – The road into Donetsk at sunset is less war zone than purgatory clouded by cheap cigarette smoke.

Apart from the distant sounds of continued fighting between Ukrainian government forces and combined Russian-separatist forces at what used to be the Donetsk Airport, hundreds of local residents stand outside their cars waiting to get back home through the checkpoint near Marynka, a war-ravaged suburb of the once-bustling, cosmopolitan city of Donetsk.

The nameless hordes of ordinary citizens – who for all intents and purposes have ceased to matter in this more than one-year war – are stuck in a never-ending queue to get through the final Ukrainian checkpoint before the land becomes “DNR,” an acronym for the self-declared Donetsk People’s Republic.

“I’m number 40!” one man cheerfully shouts to a less fortunate driver, number 62, as both of them pace back and forth from the front of the line to their parked cars, counting the number of vehicles in front of them.

It’s a modern-day theater of the absurd, Waiting for Godot with a few hundred angry Donetsk locals listlessly smoking by the roadside until they get permission to pass through.

Some people offer bribes. Some have given up and are now simply lying on the side of the road, admitting defeat. Some are berating the soldiers in vain, just because they have nothing else to do.

Cars full of families with children race up and beg the soldiers to just let them through, because their children are crying or starving or ill.

The Ukrainian government has introduced a strict permit system for those who wish to be able to travel back and forth, requiring each individual to acquire a permit. For those who own vehicles, a permit is required for the vehicle as well. The system has led to grueling checks at the border, with guards verifying information on each individual and vehicle in a computer database.

The checkpoint and the hell it causes for locals is a stark reminder that Kyiv sees Donetsk as a separate planet, yet on Ukrainian soil.

If the trenches, sandbags and armed men aren’t enough to indicate that enemy territory is being entered now, a sign on the checkpoint offers helpful advice on “How to Spot a Separatist” – a less than subtle way of warning drivers not to rub elbows with those armed men kilometers down the road who control Ukraine’s populous coal mining and steel producing heartland, from Donetsk to Luhansk.

Definition: “Anyone who openly opposes mobilization (in the east) and is waiting hopefully for Russia and Vladimir Putin.” While trying to photograph the poster for future reference, a guard warned me that photographing the area was prohibited.

What the guards don’t know – or fail to realize – is that these people have long ceased to care. They couldn’t care less about separatists or “khokhly,” a



Soldiers check the identity of a woman passing a Ukrainian checkpoint near the eastern city of Kurakhove in Donetsk Oblast on March 11. (AFP)

derogatory term used by Russians to refer to Ukrainians.

They just want a normal life with freedom of movement – one that doesn’t involve waiting for eight hours just to get back into their hometown.

“They do this to deter us from going to Donetsk too much,” says one driver, Yura, who declined to give his surname for fear of future problems at checkpoints. “They want to give us the idea that it’s not worth the hassle so we’ll just stop going. Maybe they’re worried we’ll get too friendly with the separatists.”

“There is no way it could take them this long just to check people’s passports. Look, two cars

have made it through in the past hour. There are 10 guards there. How can they only process two cars?”

A day earlier, Yura said, he’d missed the 8 p.m. deadline at the checkpoint and been forced to sleep in his car in the field. He arrived at 4 p.m. and didn’t make it through until 11 a.m. the next day.

Whether or not what Yura says is true, there is no denying that the hassle of getting into Donetsk is alienating local residents.

Andrei, a Donetsk resident who frequently travels into government-controlled territory to see his children, spoke of a balancing act when making the crossing: “The rebel side doesn’t like seeing the word Kyiv in my registration, which is in the Kyiv district of Donetsk. I had one guy freak out once about it and had to explain that ‘Kyiv District’ is not the same as the city of Kyiv.”

“And the Ukrainian side doesn’t like seeing the DNR stamp on my work ID card for a local hospital. So you have to swap out what paperwork you give

each side. It’s just stupid,” he said.

Like Yura, he requested anonymity for fear of future trouble at the checkpoint.

As he described it, the individual has been all but lost in the conflict, those most closely involved reduced to archetypes and labels – a reality I quickly ran into myself.

Days earlier I’d been advised – in very dramatic terms – not to make the trip to Donetsk.

“I wouldn’t advise it,” a Ukrainian soldier in Shyrokyne warned me. “Do you have any idea how much Motorola’s gang would get for you on the black market? They’ll detain you and then sell you to the highest bidder. That way they don’t have to feed you.”

Fellow journalists were less hyperbolic but equally ominous.

“An American working for Kyiv? You could be detained for hours, at the very least.”

“You never know how they will greet you at the checkpoints. If they’re drunk, they could shoot you.”

It was a (far-fetched) risk I was willing to take. So imagine my dismay when separatist fighters and members of the Vostok Battalion greeted me with smiles, not batting an eyelash at my American passport, not even bothering to ask a single question about what I planned to cover in Donetsk.

At the press office the next day, I was once again pleasantly surprised when the separatist fighter who guarded the door dropped his stern demeanor and scowls to ask me how I felt about cigarettes and the Chicago Bulls.

None of the dozen or so armed fighters returning from the front seemed the least bit concerned that I was American. I explained that I’d already covered the conflict from the Ukrainian side and felt it was only fair to spend some time on the other side

as well. They seemed appreciative.

So too did the press officer, Olga, who lamented the fact that “so many Ukrainian journalists are afraid to come here, so they don’t. But then they sit in their offices in Kyiv and write horror stories about us, having never seen anything for themselves.”

I nodded, knowing that she was only partly right, that plenty of Ukrainian and foreign journalists had made the trip only to be booted off the territory – if they were lucky enough to not be detained and held in a basement from hours to weeks.

Kyiv is no angel in this regard either, though, having responded in kind to Russian journalists and foreign journalists who seemed to side with Russia.

Olga seemed just as fed up with the media wars as I was.

So I was shocked to receive a phone call an hour later saying I’d been denied accreditation and would not be allowed to work in Donetsk. The official reason was that “the leadership does not like your articles.” Asked which ones, she responded: “All of your articles.”

Unofficially, the reason was that I worked for a Kyiv-based newspaper that has made its distaste for the insurgents clear.

So I wasn’t kidnapped, or sold or detained. I was simply denied accreditation – nothing surprising about that, especially during wartime.

But this minor setback is symptomatic of a wider problem: an information blockade – in force on both sides, a blockade that allows each side to build and feed its own narrative without any proper exchange of dialogue.

More than a year after the conflict erupted, this blockade is hardening positions, only prohibiting dialogue and ultimately enabling those parties who want the crisis to continue. It has

turned human beings into nothing more than pawns in a tragic farce, all of them told to ignore the humanity of their fellow citizens and act according to labels and associations instead.

At some point in my conversation in the separatist press office, I ceased to be an individual and became simply Kyiv, part of the black-and-white lens with which we now view each other, a lens which obscures all nuance in the conflict and blocks any form of understanding.

There is no longer any individual story, no human element; now it is only black and white, Kyiv vs. Moscow; Russian media vs. Ukrainian media.

That is not to downplay the many incidents of serious mistreatment of journalists – on both sides of the conflict. It’s no secret that some journalists have been beaten, detained and even killed for trying to provide the whole picture.

As officials from Kyiv, Moscow, Brussels and Washington have warned that the smoldering conflict could erupt again into full-scale war, the majority of average civilians on both sides of the checkpoints seem nothing more than tired and desperate for a return to normalcy.

Judging by the people manning the press office in Donetsk, they are too.

Maybe if I’d have gotten accreditation I’d have had plenty of pleasant things to say.

Maybe it would’ve even helped to get dialogue rolling – at least on some tiny level.

Maybe not.

Kyiv Post staff writer Allison Quinn can be reached at a.caseyquinn@gmail.com. Editor’s Note: This article has been produced with support from www.mymedia.org.ua, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and implemented by a joint venture between NIRAS and BBC Media Action

KyivPost
INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST

Volunteer accuses separatists of killing more Ukrainian prisoners

BY OLEG SUKHOV
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More testimony is emerging that Ukrainian prisoners face murder, kidnapping and torture by Kremlin-backed forces. New revelations come from relatives of the victims and a volunteer who works to get the prisoners of war released.

But Eduard Basurin, a spokesman for Kremlin-backed militants in Donetsk, said by phone that Ukrainian prisoners are treated well and that he knows nothing about any maltreatment, let alone war crimes.

However, volunteer Viktor Maistrenko said that separatist fighter Artyom Bokachyov told him by phone on Jan. 31 that most Ukrainian POWs captured during the separatist siege of Debaltseve were executed, according to a recording of the conversation provided to the Kyiv Post.

The authenticity and identity of the voices on the recording were not independently verified by the Kyiv Post.

"We have no prisoners," Bokachyov, who was based in Vuhlehirsk, 13 kilometers west of Debaltseve, allegedly said on the recording. He said that "everyone was shot by order of" Donetsk-based separatist leader Alexander Zakharchenko "after the Ukrainian army shelled an orphanage and a bus with children. Ten orphans were killed."

Bokachyov said that only two



Captive Ukrainian soldiers kneel as Kremlin-backed separatist leader Alexander Zakharchenko (C) watches at a bus stop where 13 people were killed after a trolleybus was shelled in Donetsk on Jan. 22. (AFP)

Ukrainian POWs remained in Vuhlehirsk near Debaltseve in Donetsk Oblast. But he said they would be killed soon.

According to the recording,

Bokachyov told Maistrenko: "They will be torn apart for what the Ukrainian army is doing."

The revelations build on admissions by separatists and eyewitness testimony

that war crimes have been committed.

Earlier this month, Russian citizen Arseniy Pavlov, a combatant known as Motorola, told the Kyiv Post by phone that he had killed 15 prison-

ers. Witnesses said one of them was Ukrainian soldier Ihor Branovytsky.

The Kyiv Post also interviewed relatives of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians captured by Kremlin-backed separatists.

Another Ukrainian allegedly murdered by separatists was police sergeant Oleg Naumenko, wounded on Feb. 15 when a Ukrainian checkpoint was shelled by Kremlin-backed forces. He was transferred to a hospital near Debaltseve and then, on Feb. 16, a convoy transporting Naumenko to Artemivsk was shelled by Russian-backed forces. Contact with him was lost. Subsequently Naumenko's body was transferred by separatists to Dnipropetrovsk's forensic examinations bureau. According to the bureau, he died of gunshot wounds. It is not clear, however, whether he was killed in battle or in captivity. But Naumenko's face was burned, bruised and deformed, Svitlana Pavlovskaya, his mother-in-law, told the Kyiv Post.

Olga Kyiashko, a volunteer helping Naumenko's relatives find him, said by phone that she believed the bruises proved that he had been beaten. Kyiashko, Pavlovskaya and Maistrenko believe that Naumenko was likely killed when he was a prisoner of war.

Another alleged case of torture and murder of a Ukrainian prisoner was published by Dozhd, a Russian opposition television channel. This month Dozhd released a video showing → 16

Advertisement

Turkish Business Community celebrates Children's Day with Ukrainian Children



TUID brings orphans together with Turkish businessmen

A joint conference marking the 29th anniversary of the largest environmental disaster in human history — the Chernobyl nuclear accident — was organized by the Chernobyl Children Protection Foundation and International Turkish-Ukrainian Businessmen Association (TUID). In order to mark the occasion, a day trip to Kyiv was organized on April 23rd, Children's Day, which involved 60 children affected by the ongoing consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The Ambassador of The Republic of Turkey HE Yönet Can Tezel with his wife Ave Brigader Tezel also honored this celebration.

The Vice President of International Turkish-Ukrainian Businessmen Association (TUID) Burak Pehlivan mentioned this during the fourth year that TUID and the Chernobyl Children Protection Foundation have been celebrating Children's Day

as well as commemorating the Chernobyl disaster. He also said that as an association they organize around 40 celebrations per year. However, this one is the most important celebration because these two significant dates coincide, pointed out the founder of the Republic of Turkey Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

The President of the Chernobyl Children Protection Foundation Svetlana Vasilyevna presented a "vyshyvanka" embroidered by children to the Ambassador of The Republic of Turkey to Kyiv Yonet Can Tezel. As Yonet Can Tezel put on the "vyshyvanka", he said:

"Our Turkish businessmen deal not only with trade in Ukraine, but they are also trying to provide support for social responsibility projects. TUID celebrates both April 23, Children's Day, and April 26, the



The ambassador of Turkey to Ukraine HE Yönet Can Tezel is wearing the traditional Ukrainian shirt vyshyvanka



Lunch at Mangal restaurant with orphans on April 22th, 2015

commemoration of the Chernobyl disaster. That is why I want to express my sincere appreciation for TUID's activity in Ukraine." Tezel also mentioned the economic and political dimension of relations between the two countries, including social, cultural and humanitarian aspects. He also pointed out that Turkey and Ukraine are good friends and neighbors and their ties are developing further with each year.

The president of the Chernobyl Children Protection Foundation Svetlana Vasilyevna was also talking about the contribution of the Turkish-Ukrainian Businessmen Association to the society during the last 4 years, as well as the support of the organization. Despite all the economic and political problems in Ukraine, TUID continues to increase the support of the Turkish business community for the Chernobyl Children Protection Foundation. We have

dozens of people asking for help from different organizations but it is very hard to get any help. At the same time, the Turkish-Ukrainian Businessmen Association has never refused our requests, she said. Svetlana Vasilyevna ended her speech by pointing out that those children from Narodichi village (Zhytomyr region), which was affected by the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, had a great time in Kyiv: they had a chance to taste Turkish cuisine, participate in various entertainment programs and receive gifts. All of this happened thanks to the Turkish businessmen and "we should never forget their support."

As a gift from Turkish Airlines and the Cultural and Information Office of The Republic of Turkey in Kyiv there were two children with their families who got an amazing trip to Turkey.



The general manager of the largest Turkish Bank in Ukraine Onur Anliatemer with children



Ukrainian coal miners protest on April 22 in Kyiv against mine closings and cuts in government subsidies. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Bleyzer, Segura, Kramer: West needs to more actively counter Putin

→4 The fund would also include a micro-finance program to provide credit to locals, and may also establish programs to provide temporary employment opportunities and re-training assistance for those displaced by the war. Improving the quality of life of the beneficiary communities, fostering job creation and the improvement or building of social and productive infrastructure will greatly benefit Ukraine.

Foreign direct investment and trade facilitation program

While a Social Stabilization Fund can help in the short-term and serve as a bridge to a more sustainable economic growth environment, to get there Western governments and international financial institutions need to develop a comprehensive program of trade and assistance to foreign direct investment.

To boost growth in international trade, the U.S. should enter into a Free Trade Agreement with Ukraine. The U.S. already has FTAs with 20 countries around the world, and an FTA with Ukraine, which could be modeled after the EU-Ukraine FTA, should be a priority. The expansion of exports in countries entering into FTAs with the U.S. has been significant.

Today, Ukrainian exports to the U.S. represent only 1 percent of its total exports (about \$900 million), 50 percent of which are in iron and steel products. It is feasible to increase Ukrainian exports in categories such as vegetables and fruits (Ukraine is

among the world's largest producers of vegetables), processed food, textiles, minerals, and services such as computer software and tourism.

To enable the product and geographical diversification of Ukrainian exports, as well as to revive and stabilize the economy in general, a major increase in foreign investments, both public and private, will be required. The bulk of the investments must be undertaken by the private sector in order to be sustainable over time.

Nevertheless, there is a role for international support to help attract private foreign direct investments, given the uncertainties created by the hostilities in the east and the need to strengthen Ukraine's economy to allow it to contain further Russian aggression.

Helping Ukraine complete its transition to a modern democracy and economy

Ukraine has been in transition for more than 20 years and the Ukrainian people have suffered tremendously during this time because of corruption, slow or non-existing reforms, dishonest courts, oligarchic wars and other social and economic upheavals.

With support from the IMF, the Ukrainian government has already agreed to carry out a number of structural reforms: an anti-corruption program; improvements in the business and legal environment, as well as the judicial court system,

to ensure just and unbiased judgment; further business deregulation

measures to minimize red tape and bribes; energy sector reforms to encourage energy self-sufficiency; reform of public administration including decentralization and local government reform; reform of the tax system, and better ownership rights.

While the Ukrainian government lacks the institutional capacity to implement these reforms in a timely manner, the U.S. and the European Union can step in and help. The EU, for example, on April 28 announced on 110 million euros for small and medium business development in Ukraine.

On the U.S. side, the U.S. Agency for International Development should be given more financial and human resources to assist Ukraine in further implementing key measures to improve its business climate and offer help in other areas.

A ballpark estimate for implementing such a strategy is \$100 million. Despite being hurt by the economic crisis, Ukraine's business elite has enough money to provide a meaningful contribution towards this goal. The role of the international community is vital too, since foreign investors in Ukraine have a lot at stake if Ukraine were to fail or succumb to Putin's aggression.

It is also critical to ensure that the funds designated for this initiative are properly spent. Supporting Ukraine's war-affected regions is one of the best ways to counter Putin's efforts to destabilize his neighbor. The sooner these measures can be taken, the more lives can be saved, not only in Ukraine, but in other countries as well.

Michael Bleyzer is president & CEO of SigmaBleyzer, an international equity fund management company with holdings throughout Eastern Europe, including Ukraine. Edilberto Segura is partner & chief economist at SigmaBleyzer. David J. Kramer is Senior Director at the McCain Institute.

NEWS ITEM: Three women were jailed for 15 days for making a dance video in Russia's Novorossiysk. They were dancing and twerking next to a World War II memorial, considered "hooliganism." Yet Chechnya leader Ramzan Kadyrov called on citizens to shoot Russian police officers who try to perform their duties in Chechnya.



Ukraine's government is touting long list of reforms, achievements since February 2014

Editor's Note: The following is an edited list of accomplishments cited by the Ukrainian government at the April 28 International Support For Ukraine Conference in Kyiv.

Conditions for business

- Ukraine's ranking in the Doing Business report improved 16 points, from 112 to 96.
- Number of taxes cut from 22 to 11; taxes increased for profitable industries in oil and gas extraction.
- Prohibited all state inspections of small businesses for two years while cutting the number of controlling agencies from 56 to 28.
- Cut the number of permits and licenses for businesses by 50 percent, targeting food, agriculture, energy and information technology sectors.
- Simplified the procedure for registering new businesses and property rights.
- Introduced an office of business ombudsman and appointed former EU Commissioner Algirdas Semeta to the post.
- Changed technical standards from the Soviet to the EU system.
- Increased agricultural output in 2014 by 16 percent.

Financial stability

- Reformed the outdated system of energy tariffs, raising natural gas tariffs by 280 percent and heating tariffs by 66 percent.
- Substantially reduced the deficit of the state-owned Naftogaz company from 5.7 percent of gross domestic product to 3.1 percent of GDP in 2015.
- In 2014, received \$9 billion in financial aid while repaying \$14 billion to international creditors.
- In March 2015 agreed to a new \$17.5 billion loan program with the International Monetary Fund plus \$7.5 billion from other international partners.
- Adopted a social security system for more than 1 million internally displaced persons, including direct financial aid of \$156 million.
- Eliminated a number of shadow economic schemes.
- Reduced external debt by \$4 billion.
- Cut financing for state institutions by 10.7 percent or \$142.5 million while cutting the number of public officials by 28,000.
- Eliminated the outdated system of privileged pensions for state officials; introduced taxation of high pensions.

European integration

- Signed and ratified the association agreement with the European Union.

- The EU unilaterally abolished all customs and export duties for Ukrainian exporters; share of Ukraine exports to EU increased to 31.5 percent, an increase of 5 percent.
- Started to issue biometric passports for the first phase of the EU visa liberalization action plan; more than 55,000 passports issued already.

National security

- Restored combat readiness of the armed forces.
- Raised defense expenditures to 5.2 percent of GDP, raising the budget to \$1.27 billion, including \$430 million for procuring and modernizing military equipment.
- Eliminated the non-bloc status of Ukraine and launched a reform of the military with the aim to meet NATO standards.
- Constructed 144 kilometers of anti-tank fortifications and 90 kilometers of fortified border infrastructure.
- Submitted three claims against Russia to the European Court of Human Rights.
- Passed a law on police reform and launched a pilot project of new patrol police in Kyiv and major Ukrainian cities.

Good governance

- Organized free and fair democratic elections of the president and Parliament.
- Launched a decentralization reform that increases financial resources of local communities by \$2 billion.
- Adopted a package of anti-corruption laws and established a National Anti-Corruption Bureau.
- Arrested \$1.4 billion in assets belonging to ex-President Viktor Yanukovich and his clique.
- Entered 400 officials into the lustration register after adoption of a lustration law.
- Eliminated Soviet-style general oversight of the public prosecutor.
- Strengthened legislative controls over transfer pricing and related-party lending.
- Introduced more transparent management of state-owned companies, including external audits and compulsory open competitions to appoint their CEOs.



A Ukrainian soldier near Mykolayiv on April 25. (Mykola Lazarenko)

Taking candy from Poroshenko, Russia tightens squeeze on Ukraine's president

BY ALYONA ZHUK
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Acting on a Moscow district court ruling, Russian authorities seized \$39 million worth of property belonging to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's Roshen confectionary in the Russian city of Lipetsk, according to an April 28 company statement.

The latest in a tightening Russian vice on the candy factory since last year's Ukraine EuroMaidan Revolution, the asset seizure took place on April 24. While Russia is alleging Roshen dodged \$3.5 million in taxes, there was no explanation for why property worth more than 10 times that amount was seized.

Interfax reported on April 29 that the factor was still normally operating.

Kyiv-based political analyst Vitaliy Bala described the probe into Roshen as "directly related" to Russia's war against Ukraine.

Moscow-based political analyst Dmitry Oreshkin said Russia wants to "pile pressure" on Poroshenko and fuel Kremlin propaganda "that he's at war with Russia but still doing business on its territory."

Saying the claims are a "show," Roshen said this week it will appeal the April 16 Bassmanny District Court ruling that enabled the asset seizure.

During the presidential election campaign last year, Poroshenko pledged to sell his significant assets, including Roshen.

Bala, the political analyst, said the



Roshen, Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko's confectionary giant, appeared in the media spotlight this week, as Russia seized its assets in Lipetsk. On the picture - company's shop in Kyiv after it was attacked anonymously on Jan. 19. (Ukrainian)

pressure underscores the need for Poroshenko to sell his property there. But Roshen in its April 28 statement said "the Russian side is intently using all possible methods that are depriving the company of the possibility of selling its assets in the Russian Federation."

The company reportedly controls

7 percent of the Russian confectionary market and its Lipetsk factory accounted for as much as 20 percent of total production in 2014. Ranked the world's 22nd biggest confectionary business in the world by Candy Industry, which covers the industry, Roshen in mid-February reported a

nine-fold boost in net profit to Hr 34.8 million (\$16.1 million) for 2014.

Earlier this month the business announced that it had closed a plant in Mariupol, the Azov Sea port city which Russian-backed separatists have pledged to capture. Production at the Mariupol plant, located less than 20

kilometers west from front lines where combined Russian-separatist forces and government troops continue to clash daily, was suspended in February 2014.

Headquartered in Kyiv, Roshen operates three other Ukrainian factories - one each in Kyiv, Vinnytsia and Kremenchuk. It also has production in Lithuania and Hungary.

The tax evasion charges stem from a value-added tax rebate for which the candy business applied in 2012-2013. Vladimir Markin, a spokesman for the Russian Investigative Committee, said that Roshen had submitted forged documents to the Federal Tax Service when applying for a rebate. Roshen denied the charge.

On March 21, 2014, Roshen said in a statement that it had invested \$175 million in the construction of plants in Russia. Yet the nation's state consumer rights watchdog, Rospotrebnadzor, banned the import of Roshen's confectionary goods on July 29, 2013 for "unjustified" reasons, according to Roshen.

Last year, Russian authorities blocked the premises in Lipetsk related to criminal and civil disputes on the use of trademarks. The Tver District Court in Moscow froze Roshen's Russian bank accounts containing \$55 million after a lawsuit initiated by Moscow-based Uniconf.

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'Corruption drains your economy'



JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER

Editor's Note: The following is a speech delivered on April 28 to the International Support for Ukraine Conference in Kyiv by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

The European Union supports Ukraine. We show solidarity with Ukraine. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine. Sometimes some Ukrainians have the feeling that the EU is cold shouldering them. The reality is totally different.

Almost exactly one year ago we signed the political chapters of an association agreement. That is tangible proof of our promise to you.

We are supporting with macro-financial assistance. Just last week, we disbursed 250 million euros under existing programs. And the EU has now also just agreed a further, third package of 1.8 billion euros. In total, we have already mobilised 6 billion euros of a total 11 billion euros support package.

And we are supporting the country in other ways.

Ukrainian scientists benefit from Horizon 2020, with equal access to our 80 billion euro research and development program.

Ukrainian businesses and the

Ukrainian economy benefit from trade preferences.

Those facing crisis benefit from €140 million in humanitarian aid.

Just yesterday, we committed €70 million in support for Chernobyl. To ensure a complete return to a safe environment at the site of that devastating accident.

And today I can announce that small and medium sized businesses will also benefit. Today we offer a €110 million package for them. It will help in particular those areas most affected by the conflict.

That is our support. But it must be accompanied by one thing: reform. Economic reform, political reform.

That is what the government was elected for. It has already achieved much, in a very short period of time.

The Parliament has agreed new laws to reform the gas sector and restructure Naftogaz. It means a sector that is more modern and market-based, with more competitive prices, and more secure energy.

Looking at another area: corruption drains your economy, it eats into progress, it is an everyday tiresome blight on people's lives. It's time to end it - by prosecuting, by punishing, but also preventing it, through a new culture.

Again, here, there has been encouraging progress. You have a new anti-corruption package. You have appointed the head of a New national Anti-Corruption Bureau. You are improving public financial management.

And alongside that, there has also

been progress on a constitutional commission, and to decentralise.

Such initiatives are a promising start. But they are only a start; you must pursue and implement them. Public administration must be reformed, professionalised, depoliticised.

Building on the existing reforms, the energy sector must be made more transparent, competitive, and energy itself made more efficient.

Meanwhile, decentralisation offers the solution to a conflict which is destabilising and deadly. It needs to happen: it needs to happen this year.

And that is not to mention reform on elections, the judiciary, the public prosecutor.

Reform must continue. It must be credible. It must be swift. It must be sustained.

You keep reforming, and we will keep supporting. That is the contract we are making with you.

We have a contract: we are not lecturing, we are not imposing. It is a contract, a virtuous partnership.

But this is not just a contract between the EU and Ukraine. It is a contract between Ukraine and its noble people. This is not about imposing: it is about empowering. Because these are not reforms for the benefit of your creditors or your international partners; but for your citizens.

Those people have lived for too long in a country of transition: enduring decades of missed opportunities. They aspire and long to live in a modern, European country, in a stable economy, in a sound and fair, corruption-free

political system. That is what they have protested for, that is what they have voted for, that is the government they have elected.

In closing I want to address three groups of people in particular, and what reform means for them.

First, for the people in eastern Ukraine. They are Ukrainian citizens. They suffer terribly: 6,000 killed; 15,000 wounded; 2 million displaced; 5 million in need of humanitarian aid.

For them, a Kyiv Reform Conference may seem distant or irrelevant. But in reality, the only solution to this crisis is a political one. Reform is the only way to restore stability, to restore economic opportunity, to heal the wounds of a country in conflict.

The second group I would like to address: for those in Ukraine who call for closer ties with the EU. Reform will make that process easier. Ukraine is a European country.

I was surprised, though I'm not fluent in Ukrainian, when I read the Ukrainian press this morning. Some of the journalists at my press conference, but who were not listening, said that I said that Ukraine is not a European country.

Ukraine is a European country, Ukraine is a European state, Ukraine is a great European nation.

Third, for those who were waving the EU flag on the Maidan. I know - by the way - that protest was not isolated; it is part of a long history of protest in this country, a testament to the courage, resolve and resilience of the people of Ukraine.

They were protesting not because they sought the intervention or interference of the EU. But because they saw the European values, and aspired to them. The values and virtues of dialogue and diplomacy; solutions that are peaceful and political; respect of human dignity, freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The rule of law inside the country, and the rule of international law that has been harmed so deeply in recent times.

That is what reform can bring them.

After the Iron Curtain fell, we saw many countries reforming towards the EU: restoring European unity, reconciling European history and European geography, releasing millions from tyranny into freedom. Today, those countries are open economies within our single market, equal partners in a union of free and fair nations.

This is a miracle of history.

The people on the Maidan, the people of Ukraine, have seen this path that others followed. They have seen the freedoms that others enjoy. They want to enjoy them too, and they are rightly hoping that.

I want that reform to happen. And I want to support it. But ultimately, these choices lie not with the EU, but with Ukraine: with its people, its political leadership, its institutions.

We will provide the means, and you provide the will.

Long live the EU, and long live a free and independent great Ukrainian nation.



Spring weekends are for exploring



Discovering great Kyiv street food

Street food has been an unpleasant part of the urban culture in Ukraine, with kiosks selling cheap shawarma rolls that seemed to be made of nothing but mayonnaise. But new and better street food places are popping up all over. The Kyiv Post surveyed some of the offerings in Kyiv. In all of these places, the cooks were wearing gloves and seemed to observe sanitary rules while serving up tasty fare.

Furgonetta

Where: 12 Phisculture St. near Olympiyska metro station, near Teatralna metro station (exit opposite to the Museum of Kyiv History)

Price: Hr 79

Furgonetta focuses on meat and noodles. Its two vans offer chicken and veal grill burgers and Chinese noodles. Burgers contain a meat patty, some salad, onions, tomatoes and BBQ sauce. In each of the vans, two cooks work in what looks like small high-tech kitchens. There are some chairs next to the trucks where customers can wait for their order. The burgers are freshly made and it takes at least 10 minutes to make one. Furgonetta claims to use only fresh products, with meat being delivered from local farms. According to its manager, Alla Ovsyannikova, Furgonetta never uses frozen meat for the patties.

Bistro Bistro

Where: next to Kontraktova metro station, in a row of other street food kiosks

Price: Hr 33

Bistro Bistro is probably the best destination for hot dogs. It serves hot dogs with Frankfurt or Bavarian sausages, onions, tomatoes, basil and original sauces. The staff, a cook and a cashier, are friendly and can recommend a hot dog based on one's tastes. The company gets vegetables at the Bessarabska market in the heart of Kyiv, while sausages are delivered by suppliers. Hot dogs here taste delicious, making one want to go back and try every hot dog on the menu.

Diner

Where: next to Kontraktova Square metro, in a row of other street food kiosks

Price: Hr 33-50

Diner offers burgers and Italian Panini sandwiches with veal, chicken or bacon. There is a vegetarian mozzarella Panini available too.

There are three employees working in the kiosk: a meat chef, a cook who puts together burgers and one who takes orders. → 13



Visitors pass under thick walls of Palanok Castle in Zakarpatska Oblast's Mykacheve on Sept. 12, 2012. (Pavlo Podufalov)

BY YULIANA ROMANYSHYN
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Thanks to the Labor and Victory Day holidays next month, many will get to enjoy two long holiday weekends. These are great chances to discover more of the country. The Kyiv Post points the way to some of Ukraine's faraway and nearby treasures. Most require a car. To rent one, visit www.sixt.com, www.avis.com.ua, or www.atlaschoice.com.

Uzhhorod – Mukacheve – Koson

Westernmost oblast Zakarpattya

draws tourists with hospitality, renovated castles, blooming sakura trees, and homemade wine and spicy local cuisine.

It's best to stay for a couple of days in the region's quiet and cozy capital, Uzhhorod, along the Uzh river, close to the borders of Slovakia and Hungary. The local language in the area is mixed, due to the many centuries of Ukrainian-Hungarian family ties.

While in the city, be sure to check out the Uzhhorod Castle, an early 20th century synagogue that is now a concert hall, the longest lime tree alley in Europe along the river bank, and an

outdoor museum of folk architecture.

The city of Mukacheve is only 45 kilometers away from Uzhhorod, and is worth a day visit. Founded along the Latorica River in the 9th century, Mukacheve is Uzhhorod's main competitor, eager to claim the title of the region's capital. The Palanok Castle, resting atop an extinct volcano in the suburbs, can easily be seen from 20 kilometers outside the city.

Next, pay a short visit to the village of Koson, located 40 kilometers away. It has several natural hot spring pools. Two hours in one of them costs Hr 150. On May 1-2, Koson will celebrate *bohrach*, the oldest festival in

the region celebrating the much-loved spicy Hungarian soup with meat and vegetables.

How to get there: The most comfortable way is to take a train to Uzhhorod, and then rent a car to visit Mukacheve and Koson. Trains No. 099, No. 081, or No. 013 go take 15 hours to get from Kyiv to Uzhhorod and cost Hr 150-290. If going by car, take the Kyiv – Chop highway (M-06). The drive to Uzhhorod is about 10 hours.

Where to stay: In Uzhhorod, the Olymp Hotel (Hr 1,360 for the presidential suite) or the Egan Hostel (Hr 99 for a bed in a five-bed room)

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3 picturesque routes for memorable May holidays

→ 12

Kamianets-Podilskyi – Khotyn-Bakota

Located near the Smotrych River Canyon, Kamianets-Podilskyi is best known for its well-preserved 11th century castle. Guests are welcome to check out its 12 towers and castle's museum for only Hr 20. Crossbow and bow shooting is on offer for guests, as well as other medieval fun and entertainments in the castle yard.

On May 15-17, Kamianets-Podilskyi will hold its annual festival of hot air balloons. A one-hour balloon trip above the city is Hr 2,000 per person. It also offers passengers a view of the fortress in the nearby town of Khotyn from a height of 500 meters.

Khotyn is located 28 kilometers away from Kamianets-Podilskyi. It was built in the 14th century as a fortress on the Dniester River. There is no

museum inside, but it is still worth the visit, which only costs Hr 4. Afterwards, be sure

to climb one of the neighboring hills to enjoy a view of the 40-meter-high fortress on the river bank. Another unique

place, the flooded village of Bakota, is not on Google Maps, but any local can show the way to get there. Located 50 kilometers from Kamianets-Podilskyi, the village was flooded when the Dniester Hydroelectric Station was being built in 1981, leaving a beautiful river bay surrounded by rocks. Nearby, there are the remains of a cave monastery with ancient frescos.

How to get there: From Kyiv to



Kamianets-Podilskyi Castle of 11th century in Khmelnytskyi Oblast as captured from a hot air balloon on Oct. 10, 2014. (UNIAN)

Kamianets-Podilskyi, take train No.139 or No.117, costing Hr 104-215 and taking eight hours; or No.769, which costs Hr

take the H03 highway towards Chernivtsi. To find the sight of the flooded village of Bakota, drive T2317 to Kolodiivka, the nearest village.

Where to stay: In Kamianets-Podilskyi, the Reikartz Hotel (Hr 900 for a double room) or the Hetman Hotel (Hr 400 for a twin room)

Odesa – Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi –Vylkove

In low tourist season, when the Black Sea isn't warm enough to swim in, Odesa attracts tourists who like to walk in the city, admire the statue of the Duc de Richelieu, drink coffee at outdoor cafes and attend

a performance at the Odesa Opera Theater.

While staying in Odesa, take a one-day trip to Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi, a city and a port near the Akkerman Fortress, some 85 kilometers out of Odesa. By the most common account, Akkerman was founded by people from Genoa, Italy, in the 13th century. Now the fortress hosts festivals and often serves as a filming location.

Drive another 140 kilometers through old villages with Moldavian and Romanian names from Akkerman to the south of the region to get to Vylkove. This small city is located in the Danube

Delta marshlands, near the Romanian border. The city is popularly referred to as the Ukrainian Venice because of its many canals. In summer, it is a popular resort.

How to get there: Take the seven-hour intercity train No. 761 to Odesa for Hr 263-412. By car, take the Kyiv – Odesa highway (M05). The drive is about 5.5 hours.

Where to stay: In Odesa, the Bon Apart Hotel (Hr 1,800 for a one-bedroom apartment) and Loft Hostel (Hr 400 for an economy double room).

Kyiv Post staff writer Yuliana Romanyshyn can be reached at romanyshyn@kyivpost.com.

Food Critic: Street food surprises with quality, taste and cleanliness

→ 12 "The patties are made by our original recipe. The trick is in the combination of veal and fat," employee Snizhana Tsarovska told the Kyiv Post, adding that her personal favorite is the Diner's King Burger (Hr 49).

There are small tables near the tent, to eat or wait for the order. Those who check-in here using Forsquare will get free French fries with the order.

Burger Farm

Where: 2B Vorovskogo St. near Lvivska Square
Price: Hr 40-67

Burger Farm opened 1.5 years ago and offers three types of burgers: Burger Farm, Cheeseburger and Fed Farmer. The wait for the order is 10-15 minutes, given there is no queue.

"We buy meat and vegetables at the market, fresh buns we get from a bakery," says Aleksey Linkov, the cook.

The burgers here include a large portion of salad, but the patties were

quite tiny – except for the ones in the Fed Farmer, the most expensive option (Hr 65) that includes a veal patty, Iceberg salad, tomatoes, pickles, ranch and BBQ sauces, cheese, bacon and eggs. It weighs 400 grams.

KontrWok

Where: Kontraktova Square, next to metro exit

Prices: Hr 60-70 (depends on ingredients)

KontrWok serves Chinese food to the passersby at the Kontraktova Square. One special feature makes this kiosk stand out – it offers the customers to mix their own box of Chinese food, adding the meat and vegetables to the basic noodles or rice. The list of ingredients includes beef, chicken, shrimp, vegetables, mushrooms, tofu, and seven different sauces. The wait takes up to 10 minutes.

Kyiv Post staff writer Anna Yakutenko can be reached at yakutenko.anna@gmail.com.



Customers order hot dogs from Bistro on Kontraktova Square on April 28. (Anastasia Vlasova)

May 5



(rsc.org.uk)

'Love's Labour's Lost'

Kyiv Cinema will show William Shakespeare's "Love's Labour's Lost" staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company as part of its British Theater in Cinema program.

"Love's Labour's Lost" by Royal Shakespeare Company (screening). Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.). May 5, 7 p.m. Hr 120

Francis Giacobetti Photo Exhibition

Francis Giacobetti was featured in "Techniques of the World's Great Photographers" (1981, Phaidon Press Limited), a cult book listing 40 photographers. His style is instantly recognizable. Giacobetti's photo exhibition is part of the French Spring Festival and will be open through July 12.

Francis Giacobetti Photo Exhibition. Brucie Collections Gallery (55B Artema St.). April 16 – July 12, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Saturday, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday. Free



(Francis Giacobetti)

April 16 – July 12

April 17-27



(idfa.nl)

International Documentary Festival

The annual International Documentary Festival will feature 15 films picked from the festival in Amsterdam. During the festival in Kyiv, producer Polina Kelm will be giving a filmmaking class "Ukrainian Stories." The films will be shown with English subtitles.

International Documentary Festival 2015. Master class Center (16A Lavrska St.). April 17-27. Full schedule at masterklass.ua. Free.

May 16-17



(Courtesy)

Selfie Festival

In 2013, Oxford Dictionaries designated "selfie" as the word of the year. During the coming weekend, Kyiv will be celebrating the art of self-photography. The festival will offer 20 crazy photo zones, photo and video equipment rentals, and photography classes.

Selfie Festival. Modern Art Center M17 (102 Antonovych St.). May 16-17, 12 a.m. – 7 p.m. Hr 60, Hr 100 for two tickets

May 1-9



(wallconvert.com)

May Art Picnic

For those staying in Kyiv for the May holidays, this series of daily picnics in one of the city's most beautiful parks is a good option. The organizers promise a vast choice of fun activities, including arts-and-crafts classes, a theater day with plays for children in the morning and adults in the evening, and musical performances by the bands Kishe and Tartak.

May Art Picnic. Spivoche Pole Park near World War II History Museum (33 Ivana Mazepy St.). May 1-9, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. Hr 35-65

April 18 – May 17



(Marko Tsitron)

'Lisova Pisnya'

Italian artist Marko Tsitron spent time in Donetsk in the summer of 2011 with seven other photographers from different countries, all making photographs of the city. Now Tsitron is exhibiting his photos to show what Donetsk was like before the war changed it.

"Lisova Pisnya" ("The Forest Song"). Izolyatsia Art Center (8 Naberezhno-Luhova St.). April 18 – May 17, 12 a.m. – 7 p.m. Free



The Embassy of Sweden announces a vacancy for the position of **Programme Officer** to manage a portfolio mainly within the field of democratic governance and human rights.

The closing date for applications is **8 May, 2015**.

For more information about the position, application procedures and requirements, please visit www.swedenabroad.com/en-GB/Embassies/Kyiv/

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We are an International Food company with office in several countries worldwide.

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U.S. EMBASSY IN UKRAINE IS LOOKING TO FILL THE POSITION OF GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Basic Function of Position:

As a member of the Public Affairs Section's New Media Unit, designs graphic elements for Embassy print, video and online products. An incumbent serves as assistant video editor and second cameraperson for in-house video productions. In coordination with appropriate offices of the State Department, conceives and develops the requirements for applications (apps) for digital devices (e.g. smartphones and tablets) to increase access to Embassy and U.S. Government online materials. Regularly reviews and analyzes other U.S. Embassy websites — as well as business, government and NGO websites — in search of best practices in online outreach and graphic presentation.

Required Qualifications:

- **Education:** A four-year college degree in public relations, communications, library science and/or information science, information technology, computer science, or other related field.
- **Experience for Full performance level:** Two years of professional experience, which involves either work with graphic design or professional video production (camera work and/or video editing).
- **Experience for Trainee level:** One year of professional experience, which involves either work with graphic design or professional video production (camera work and/or video editing).
- **Languages:** Level III (good working knowledge) in English, Ukrainian and Russian is required.
- **Skills and abilities:** Mastery of graphic design software, video camera and editing skills. Ability to develop requirements for apps for a variety of digital devices (e.g. smartphones, tablets, laptops). Refined Internet search abilities. Interpersonal skills for interaction with other team members as well as the public.

Application deadline: May 8, 2014 at 6 P.M. Kyiv Time

How to Apply: The compensation is set for full performance level at 17.000\$ (gross per year) and for trainee level at 14.000\$ (gross per year) plus benefit package. Full version of the vacancy announcement and the U.S. Mission application for employment form (DS-174) are available at our site: <http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/job-opportunities.html>.

Interested applicants should fill out the application form in English and email it to: KyivHR@state.gov or faxed it to: 044-521-5155.



World Food Programme

UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
DATE OF ISSUE: 28 APRIL 2015
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 12 MAY 2015

Job Title: HR Assistant
Contract type: SSA-5
Duty Station: Kyiv, Ukraine
Duration: Six months (extendable)

Accountabilities: Under the overall supervision of Head of Office in Ukraine, and direct supervision of the HR Officer, the incumbent will be responsible for the following duties:

- Extract and input data from various sources in the human resource database;
- Respond to human resources queries from staff in the unit and elsewhere in the Programme;
- Ensure that salary, overtime, hours of work, leave policy, entitlement, health insurance and detailed Terms of Reference are comprehensively included within the body of all Letters of Employment offers;
- Review supporting documentation for processing various actions; answer a variety of enquiries and supply readily available information from office files, databases, liaising with other offices as appropriate;
- Verify benefit and other human resources related claims for accuracy and conformance with personnel rules and regulations;
- Draft routine correspondence and initiate process for the preparation of all staff support documentation (visas, identification cards, UN Laissez Passer, bank accounts, etc); organise relevant Customs, immigration and UN documentation process, as required;
- Assist supervisor(s) in monitoring the contractual status of all staff on various appointments based in immediate location or within the office's mandate; monitor within grade service increment schedules and ensure the timely preparation and issuance of contract renewals and personnel action forms;
- Check and maintain attendance registers, leave reports, DSA forms and other forms and reports;
- Check and maintain personnel files for all staff at location, ensuring all documentation is complete; maintain and update confidential personnel information and documents, and ensure relevant documents are kept in their respective files;
- Search for, retrieve, compile, assemble and archive a variety of human resources statistical data from computer files, records, reports or from other sources for external use;
- Collect and maintain information on commercial, private and inter agency training schedules and institutions (course schedules, curricula, and cost);
- Assist in the preparation of administrative reports; draft routine correspondence; arrange for briefings and debriefings and take notes at meetings;
- Ensure that UNDP and WFP issued human resource and personnel policy manuals, rules, regulations, guidelines, and circulars, are updated and filed regularly;

Qualifications & Education requirements:

- Minimum Secondary school education; University degree in HR Management, Public/Business Administration or other related fields is desirable.
- Training and/or experience utilising computers, including word processing, spreadsheet and other standard WFP software packages and systems. General knowledge of UN system policies, rules, regulations and procedures governing human resources administration.

Experience:

- At least four years of progressively responsible support or secretarial work experience including at least two years in the field of human resources or other related field and at least one year at the G4 level or equivalent.

Language:

- Fluency in English, Russian and Ukrainian languages (Level C).

Desirable skills:

- Knowledge of WFP manuals in the area of human resources administration. Formal training in administration or human resources. Typing 35 wpm in English.

Interested applicants must submit an English version of their CVs/ P11 forms. Applications should be forwarded to the following email address HR.Ukraine@wfp.org

Applicants should clearly mark the position title or/ and vacancy announcement number while submitting through email. The Vacancy Announcement number (WFP/18/2015) must be mentioned in the subject line.

WFP is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified female candidates are encouraged to apply. Please note that WFP does not charge fee at any stage of the recruitment process. Only qualified candidates will be contacted. This vacancy is open to nationals of Ukraine and any applicant with a residency/work permit.

ATTENTION EXPATS

Some years ago, the Kyiv Post lost part of its print archive from 1995–2000. If you have any copies tucked away in an attic or storage, please deliver them to the Kyiv Post! We will scan them for our archives and return your copy! Thanks for helping to preserve the history of Ukraine's English-language newspaper since 1995! **CONTACT:** Brian Bonner, chief editor, bonner@kyivpost.com or call +38 044 591 33 44. The Kyiv Post office is at 31a Pushkinska St., Office 600, Kyiv, Ukraine, 01004.



Management Sciences for Health implementing the USAID funded Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services project is looking for a Senior Technical Advisor – Supply Chain Policy and Management

Interested professionals may access a full job description and apply online at <https://jobs-msh.icims.com/jobs/8160/senior-technical-advisor> or email a CV to uasiaps@msh.org. CV submission deadline May 27, 2015

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A helicopter dumps sand over the exploded fourth reactor of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in late April 1986. (UNIAN)



A police officer checks the level of radioactivity on vehicles leaving the 30-kilometer exclusion zone around Chernobyl on May 10, 1986. (AFP)



An Aug. 5, 1986, photograph shows repairs being carried out on the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. (AFP)

Chernobyl's legacy is far from over, 29 years later. Besides the still-incalculable human toll of early cancer and other premature deaths attributed to the heavy radioactive fallout, the world must still close an €85 million funding gap to build a new protective structure to cover the destroyed reactor 4. The initial concrete shelter that was hastily built over the reactor in 1986 is aging. The new one under construction at the closed power plant is designed to contain the radiation for at least 100 years. The goal is to complete construction by 2017. The world moved €180 million closer to the goal at an international donor conference in London on April 29. At least 30 operators and firefighters were killed within the first three months of the April 26, 1986, explosion. The disaster forced the evacuation of 200,000 people and the creation of a 30-kilometer exclusion zone, where 5,000 people still live and work. The steam explosion took place during a stress test that went wrong due to design flaws and neglected safety rules, triggering the release of massive amounts of radiation across Europe. The reactor crew caused the accident by conducting a test on April 25 to determine how long turbines would spin and supply power to circulating pumps following a loss of the main electrical power supply.



Workers walk in front of the new safe confinement at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on March 17. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Chernobyl's 29-year legacy



A man sets candles in front of portraits at the monument to Chernobyl victims in Slavutich, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the accident site, and where many of the power station's personnel used to live, during a memorial ceremony early on April 26. (AFP)



Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko crosses himself after laying flowers at the memorial in front of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on April 26. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Separatists deny latest accusations of killing Ukrainian prisoners

→9 several Ukrainian POWs later identified as 30th brigade soldiers – Oleksandr Berdes from Cherkasy Oblast, Vasyl Demchuk from Volyn Oblast and Pavlo Platsynsky from Zhytomyr Oblast. All of them had been killed.

In the video, one of the separatists says “don't shoot him,” but then gunshots are heard.

Anna Zaplishna, Berdes' wife, told Hromadske television in April that her husband had been captured by Kremlin-backed forces after Feb. 8. She said a Donetsk-based volunteer had claimed that the three soldiers were killed by shelling on the outskirts of Donetsk. But she suspects they had been beaten to death. She said Berdes was beaten severely and his body was bruised.

“Platsynsky was shot in the eye, and Vasyl Demchuk didn't have an ear,” Zaplishna said. “They are sadists.”

Soldiers of Ukraine's 15th brigade held as prisoners in Donetsk Oblast's Makiyivka have also been reportedly mistreated. Several of them have

claimed by phone that they had been severely beaten, Maistrenko said.

There are also reports that civilian hostages are mistreated.

In early February Kremlin-backed militants detained Oksana Svyryd, the wife of Ukrainian soldier Anatoly Svyryd, and three other people, Anatoly Svyryd said by phone. Oksana Svyryd decided to go to Horlivka in separatist-held areas in a bid to get her husband released. Instead, they were detained by separatists after symbols of the EuroMaidan Revolution were found in their car.

“Oksana was beaten and tortured with electricity,” Anatoly Svyryd said.

Kremlin-backed militants shot another detainee, Vlad Pashchenko, in the leg, he said. The third one, Viktor Tutov, was beaten severely and will undergo surgery in Dnipropetrovsk, Svyryd added.

Oksana Svyryd told Maistrenko that some detainees' ribs had been broken.

She was released after 11 days, while Pashchenko and Tutov were released after a month. But the fourth detainee –

Sergei Rudnik, a pro-Ukrainian Russian citizen who has lived in Ukraine for many years – was kidnapped.

Rudnik was transported into Russia by separatists and charged with illegally crossing the border and illegal arms possession, Maistrenko said. He was being held at the Tikhoretsk detention center in Russia's Krasnodar Krai, Maistrenko added. The Tikhoretsk police department and detention center refused to comment.

One of the most gruesome episodes of alleged war crimes happened during the separatist rule of Sloviansk in Donetsk Oblast between April-July 2014. In July documents confirming extrajudicial executions by Russian-backed militants in Sloviansk were found along with mass graves of at least 14 people, including four Protestant civilians.

Igor Druz, an aide to Russian citizen Igor Strelkov who ruled Sloviansk, admitted that the militants had carried out some extra-judicial executions.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oleg Sukhov can be reached at reaganx84@gmail.com.

Public, private sectors to search for talent at the Kyiv Post Job Fair at 10 a.m. on May 16

→6 Returnees to the fair, the Kyiv School of Economics and British Council, will be looking for potential students.

A major player in the agricultural sector, Minnesota-based Cargill, is coming too. In Ukraine it employs more than 700 people and specializes in supplying quality crop protection products, seeds and fertilizers.

Other companies attending the Employment Fair include Advanced International Translations, the Ukrainian cable telecommunications firm Volia, the employment portal Rabota Plus (rabotaplus.ua), Mazars consulting company, the business consulting firm Ukr-China Communication, Porsche Group Ukraine, the NOVARKA consortium, the Baker Tilly consulting firm, Smart Line VIP concierge service, the international student

non-profit group AIESEC, and Procredit Bank.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with presentations and seminars beginning at 10:30 a.m. Entry is Hr 25 per person.

Kyiv Post staff writer Bozhena Sheremeta can be reached at sheremeta@kyivpost.com

2015 Kyiv Post Employment Fair

When: May 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: The Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce, 33 Velyka Zhytomyrska st.

Entrance fee: Hr 25.

To participate: Call Tanya Vasilko, employment & classifieds advertising manager at 591-3408.

To attend: Register at <http://www.kyivpost.com/employment-fair/>