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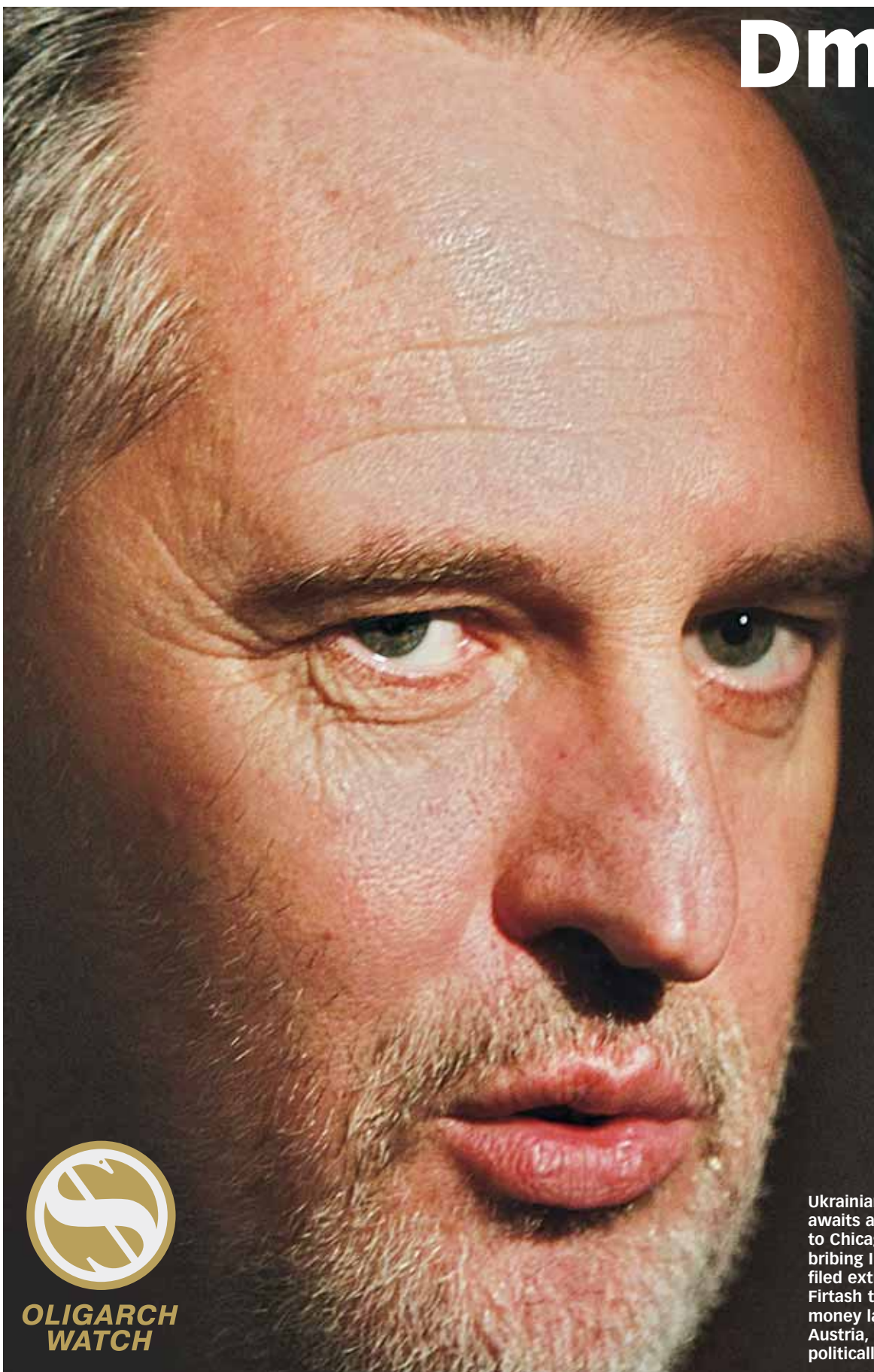
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December 9, 2016



Dmytro Firtash: The Oligarch Who Can't Come Home

While living in exile in Austria and fighting US extradition to face bribery charges that he dismisses as politically motivated, Russia's gas-trading partner still wields influence in Ukraine in many ways. Story starts on page 10.



**OLIGARCH
WATCH**

Ukrainian oligarch Dmytro Firtash awaits a US appeal to extradite him to Chicago to face trial for allegedly bribing Indian officials. Spain also filed extradition papers on Nov. 26 for Firtash to be tried in Spain for alleged money laundering. From exile in Austria, he dismisses the allegations as politically motivated. (UNIAN)

Oligarch Watch Series

Part 1	Oct. 7	Petro Poroshenko: All In The Family – Again
Part 2	Oct. 14	Victor Pinchuk: Ukraine's Friend Or Foe?
Part 3	Oct. 21	Rinat Akhmetov: Too Big To Tame
Part 4	Oct. 28	Ihor Kolomoisky: Still Throwing His Weight Around
Part 5	Nov. 11	Vadim Novinsky: Ukraine's 'Russian' Oligarch
Part 6	Dec. 9	Dmytro Firtash: The Oligarch Who Can't Come Home

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Onyshchenko makes sweeping claims about Poroshenko graft

BY OLEG SUKHOV

Oleksandr Onyshchenko, a fugitive lawmaker from the People's Will faction, has accused President Petro Poroshenko and his inner circle of massive corruption and released what he says is evidence to back his claims.

Onyshchenko's allegations add detail and specify exact amounts allegedly paid by the president to bribe lawmakers, as well as sums allegedly extorted from state companies by Poroshenko and his right-hand man, lawmaker Ihor Kononenko.

The Presidential Administration has dismissed Onyshchenko's accusations as "absolutely false" and said that he was attempting to politicize an embezzlement case against him. Representatives of Kononenko, who has denied such accusations in the past, declined to comment.

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine has opened a criminal case to investigate Onyshchenko's claims, while some lawmakers have called for the creation of a special commission. Poroshenko's critics argue that the scandal could potentially lead to his impeachment.

Critics of Onyshchenko, who was interviewed by the Kyiv Post on Dec. 8, have also questioned his credibility. He voiced some of his accusations through strana.ua, a news site linked to ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions, and Rossiya 24 television, a Kremlin propaganda channel.

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine has charged Onyshchenko with stealing Hr 1.6 billion (\$64 million) from state-owned gas producer Ukgazvydobuvannya, which he denies. He fled Ukraine before he was stripped of his parliamentary immunity in July.

Onyshchenko said on Dec. 1 he had given the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation evidence of the alleged corruption of Poroshenko and his inner circle – a claim that was neither confirmed nor denied by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Lawmaker Oleksandr Onyshchenko attends a meeting of the Verkhovna Rada's regulation committee, which approved stripping him of parliamentary immunity, on June 29. (UNIAN)



"Everything depends on how U.S. authorities handle these material," political analyst Vitaly Bala said.

Meanwhile, reformist lawmaker Sergii Leshchenko said on Dec. 1 that he believed an unlawful enrichment case against him was Poroshenko's reaction to his help in sending information on alleged corruption about the president and his inner circle to U.S. intelligence agencies.

Theft at state firms

Onyshchenko has also accused Poroshenko and Kononenko of taking money from state and private companies.

He told the Kyiv Post that he had been paying Hr 2,000 per 1,000 cubic meters to Kononenko for his company's natural gas supplies to two state-owned companies - fertilizer producer Odesa Portside Plant and electric power producer Tsentrenergopro. He showed the Kyiv Post alleged smartphone correspondence with Kononenko on the Tsentrenergopro supplies.

Onyshchenko also claimed that Kononenko had been getting \$20 per ton from coal supplies coming from Russian-occupied Donbas.

Moreover, he told The Independent newspaper in London on Dec. 2 that an agent of a government figure used to come to his office and collect \$1 million in cash for "pocket expenses." Onyshchenko told the Kyiv Post that the person was Kononenko.

Poroshenko has also instructed the State Fiscal Service to delay tax payments for natural gas firms and used the money to finance his political projects, Onyshchenko told Rossiya 24 television on Dec. 4.

He has also accused Poroshenko of extorting and raiding businesses, including assets owned by oligarch Rinat Akhmetov and ex-Ecology Minister Mykola Zlochevsky.

Poroshenko "instructs the Prosecutor General's Office to open a criminal case, then assets are frozen, and then negotiations are held with the company's CEO on how much (the president) can get for resolving the problem," Onyshchenko claimed.

Plea bargain

Another accusation is that Poroshenko has been trying to reach a deal to write off his alleged \$50 million debt to Onyshchenko in exchange for a plea bargain.

Onyshchenko on Dec. 6 released a recording in which he and People's Will lawmaker Oles Dovhiy, whom the fugitive member of parliament described as representing Poroshenko, discuss the possibility of Onyshchenko reaching a plea bargain. Dovhiy has confirmed the authenticity, but said he was represented the People's Will.

Dovhiy mentions another negotiator from Poroshenko, Andriy Tsygankov, and Onyshchenko refers to him as a friend of Poroshenko's top ally and lawmaker Oleksandr Hranovsky. Tsygankov told Onyshchenko that he had to pay \$2 million to Poroshenko to be allowed a plea bargain, Onyshchenko claimed.

Hranovsky and Tsygankov denied negotiating with Onyshchenko on behalf of Poroshenko.

Bribery in parliament

Onyshchenko has also exposed what he claims to be pervasive corruption in the Verkhovna Rada.

He told The Independent that he had paid \$6 million to support Poroshenko in the 2014 parliamentary election, and as a result the electoral authorities had cleared his candidacy to become a member of parliament.

Onyshchenko has also said he had been an intermediary in Poroshenko's alleged efforts to bribe lawmakers, and has showed to the media text messages that he says prove his claims. He told the Kyiv Post that he, as well as Poroshenko Bloc lawmakers Kononenko, Hranovsky and Serhiy Berezhenko, had participated in the purchase of votes in parliament. Hranovsky called the accusations "nonsense," and Berezhenko did not reply to a request for comment.

In a Nov. 30 interview with strana.ua, Onyshchenko described a case in which he allegedly received two bags with \$3 million in cash at the Presidential Administration to bribe

lawmakers.

About 70 lawmakers sell their votes individually, Onyshchenko told strana.ua. The price of their votes ranges from \$20,000 to \$100,000 per lawmaker, he said.

He told strana.ua that between \$2 million and \$2.5 million had been paid for the vote in favor of the resignation of Security Service of Ukraine Chief Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, and \$3 million had been disbursed for the vote to approve the appointment of Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin in 2015. The appointment of Shokin's successor Yuriy Lutsenko in May 2016 cost \$2 million, he told the Kyiv Post.

Last week strana.ua published a document that Onyshchenko claimed proves that Poroshenko's investment banker Makar Pasienuk had paid him 11.88 million euros to bribe regional lawmakers to select pro-presidential oblast council speakers after the Oct. 25, 2015 local elections. Pasienuk has denied the accusations.

Media corruption

Onyshchenko also said he had been asked by Kononenko to orchestrate a smear campaign against former Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk to force him to resign. The campaign, which included anti-Yatsenyuk protests and bribing media to attack the then prime minister, cost \$3 million per month and ran for 10 months, he told the Independent. In September, Onyshchenko told strana.ua that he had been asked to buy Channel 112 on Poroshenko's behalf as part of the president's efforts to crack down on independent media, which has been denied by Poroshenko. Strana.ua published an alleged memorandum between Onyshchenko and Channel 112's owner Andriy Podshchypkov under which the channel would abstain from criticizing Poroshenko and Onyshchenko would have a preemptive right to buy it for at least \$30 million. The memorandum's authenticity was confirmed by Podshchypkov. According to strana.ua, Poroshenko has also held talks on buying the NewsOne and 1+1 television channels. ■

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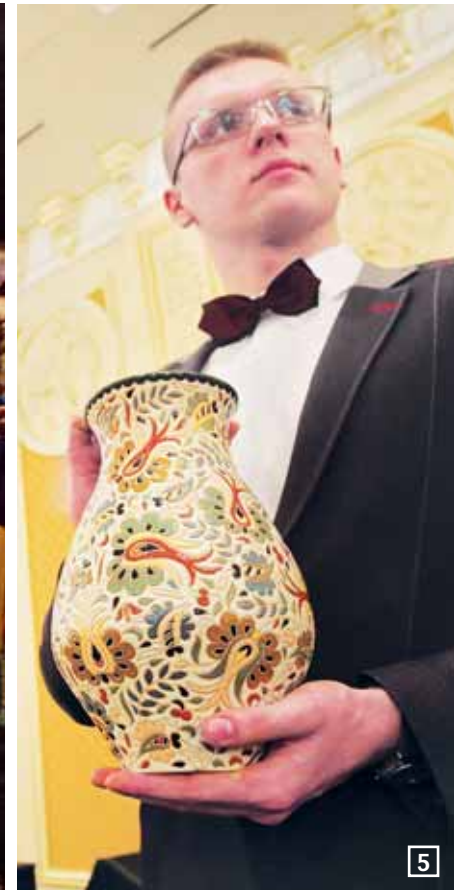
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Helping Ukrainian Catholic University



Top names in Ukrainian politics, business and society came together for a good cause on Dec. 3 at the Fairmont Grant Hotel in Kyiv, where the Lviv-based Ukrainian Catholic University held its annual benefit in Kyiv. 1. Lenna Kozarny, CEO of Horizon Capital (C) and ex-First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko (second from right). 2. Ukrainian Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko. 3. Head of Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church Svyatoslav Shevchuk. 4. The band "Got To Be Free" performs at the event. 5. An auction assistant holds a vase. 6. Borys Gudziak, president of the 1,600-student private university, gives a speech. (Anastasia Vlasova)

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Editorials

Onyshchenkagate

Lawmaker Oleksandr Onyshchenko, an ex-member of former President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions charged with embezzlement, has been criticized as lacking credibility.

And it is true that Onyshchenko's sweeping accusations against President Petro Poroshenko and his inner circle are being used both by Yanukovich's former supporters and the Kremlin to destabilize Ukraine.

Yet a lot of what Onyshchenko is saying is not new and has been said by many more credible sources, including ex-prosecutor generals Davit Sakvarelidze and Vitaly Kasko, lawmakers Sergii Leshchenko and Viktor Chumak and others.

His detailed portrayal of the brazen way in which members of parliament are bribed and state companies are fleeced is astonishing. What makes it more credible is that these practices were well-known before, and that Onyshchenko effectively admitted to taking part in these corruption schemes.

Onyshchenko has already published some evidence, which has to be thoroughly analyzed and checked for authenticity, and has allegedly given U.S. authorities much more proof.

In fact, it is not the critics and accusers who are destabilizing Ukraine and lending Russian dictator Vladimir Putin a hand. It is Ukraine's amazingly thievish and out-of-touch bureaucracy, which is slowly killing the nation by stealing whatever crumbs are left of the country's wealth and thus giving fodder to criticism.

Whether or not Poroshenko and his allies spearhead this mind-boggling thievery has yet to be determined by both U.S. and Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.

If true, Onyshchenko's accusations could be the beginning of Poroshenko's downfall, similar to those of his predecessors Leonid Kuchma in the wake of the scandal over the murder of journalist Georgy Gongadze and Viktor Yanukovich following his decision to drop an association deal with the European Union.

Hopefully, Ukraine will someday have a president with sufficient integrity to be immune to such accusations.

Visa-free soon?

Ukrainians got a rare piece of good news on Dec. 8, when the European Union announced it had reached agreement on the conditions for suspending a visa-free regime with Ukraine – the last stage in the long process of granting visa-free travel to the EU for Ukrainians.

The agreement was needed as a failsafe mechanism, allowing the union to re-impose visa requirements for Ukrainians, should certain conditions arise, such as a wave of unjustified asylum applications, or a lack of cooperation by Kyiv on the return of illegal migrants. The issue of migration is a particularly thorny one for the union at the moment - for obvious reasons.

Ukraine long ago relaxed its own visa requirements for citizens of most EU countries, in particular ahead of the UEFA 2012 Soccer Championship, which was held in Ukraine and Poland. Even before the EuroMaidan Revolution of the winter of 2013-2014, Ukraine had been working to achieve reciprocal visa conditions from the European Union, but those efforts stalled when former President Viktor Yanukovich drew back from signing Ukraine's long-negotiated Association Agreement with the EU, triggering massive street protests, and his own downfall three months later.

The EuroMaidan Revolution started out as a mass public protest against the Yanukovich regime's reorientation away from Europe towards Moscow, but they ended as a mass public rejection of corrupt government and Putin-style authoritarianism, and an embracing of the values for which the EU stands.

Free movement of people in a free market is one of those values, and this Ukraine has now (mostly) achieved with its economic treaty with the EU and the visa-free regime.

However, there is still much to do to bring Ukraine into line with the rest of the values of the EU, with installing the rule of law and an honest judicial system being top of the agenda.

Nevertheless, obtaining a visa-free regime with the EU is another step in the right direction for Ukraine, even though it has been a long time in coming.



NEWS ITEM: Alexander Zakharchenko, the self-appointed leader of separatist armed groups in Donetsk, said in an interview that Russia should conquer Britain, which, he said, was "the main source of all evil." The conquest of the UK would usher in a "Golden Age for Russia," he said.



NEWS ITEM: A new service in Lviv lets the public order – and pay for – prayers using a public payment terminal. Prayers cost from Hr 10 to Hr 500, and part of the money raised will be used to fund religious missions to the war zone in Ukraine's east.



NEWS ITEM: Runaway Ukrainian lawmaker Oleksandr Onyshchenko released the first of several recordings that he says proves that Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and his team are corrupt. Onyshchenko said some of the recordings were made using a watch.



NEWS ITEM: Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that he dreams of travelling the world after a "successful retirement" from Russian politics. Speaking during a visit to factory workers in Chelyabinsk, Putin said he wanted to visit "natural and historical sites."

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Abductions cause fear among Crimean Tatars

BY KYIV POST

BAKCHISARAY, Crimea – On Sept. 27, 2014, 18-year-old Islyam Dzhapparov poured coffee for his father Abdureshit at home in Belogorsk, Crimea, before leaving the house to visit his uncle's family nearby.

At 7 p.m., a neighbour drove into Dzhapparov's yard. He said he had just seen Islyam and another young man being searched by men in black uniform, who forced the pair into a van and drove away. The second youth was Dzhapparov's nephew, 23-year-old Dzhevdet Islyamov.

Nineteen months later, on May 24, 2016, Umer Ibragimov was at home in Bakhchisaray, Crimea, waiting for his son Ervin to come back from dropping off a friend.

Just 300 meters away, CCTV cameras outside a shop caught the moment, at 10:22 p.m., when Ervin's car was pulled over by men wearing traffic police uniform. After a search of the vehicle, the men forced the 30-year-old into a van and drove away. Umer found his son's abandoned car next morning, the key still in the ignition.

None of the three men have been heard of since. No one has been charged with their abduction. Two fathers have been left desperately searching for answers.

Untangling these two tales of enforced disappearance reveals a picture of Russian-annexed Crimea where many live in fear of arrest, lawlessness and repression, even as those officially responsible for order and human rights insist there is no problem.

Unsolved crimes

Around eighteen unsolved disappearances and deaths are cited by Abdureshit Dzhapparov and other human rights activists as evidence of human rights violations by authorities since Russia occupied and annexed Crimea in March 2014.

First among them is that of Reshat Ametov, whose abduction by Crimean "self-defence militia" (paramilitary groups formed in late February 2014) was caught on camera in Simferopol on March 3, 2014. His body, showing signs of torture, was found on March 15. Although the men in the video are identifiable, no one has been charged with his kidnapping or murder.

Other cases include Timur Shaimardanov and Seiran Zinedinov, pro-Ukrainian activists who vanished within days of each other in May 2014; Eskender Apseyamov, who left his house and never came back on Oct. 3, 2014; Edem Asanov, found hanged on Oct. 6, 2014 a week after he went missing; Mukhtar Arislanov, abducted in Simferopol on 27 August 2015, and Ruslan Ganijev and Arlen Terekhov from Kerch, who disappeared in December 2015.

All these men were either openly opposed to annexation, or influential in non-Russian religious or civic communities, or are from Crimea's indigenous Muslim group, the Crimean Tatars.

"I think there's an element of accident; a person was just in the wrong place at the wrong time," Ilmi



The Ibrahimov family in their house on Dec. 6 in Bakhchisaray, Russian-annexed Crimea. Ervin Ibrahimov, a Crimean Tatar activist, was kidnapped on May 24 near his house in Bakhchisaray. (Courtesy)

Umerov, who headed Bakhchisaray administration until he resigned in protest at Russian rule, said of the disappearances. But this apparent randomness is also a deliberate technique by those behind the incidents, he went on. If enforced disappearances affect only active regime opponents, then others assume they are safe if they keep quiet. "But when there's this element of accident, any person, or their child or relative can end up among (the disappeared). And this creates an overall sense of fear."

The fear is palpable, and the disappearances have had an enormous effect on the Crimean Tatars' close-knit community of 250,000, most of whom do not support Russian rule. Drivers no longer open their car doors when stopped by police, but show their licenses through the window. One Crimean Tatar couple from near Bakhchisaray told me they had sent their grandson to university in Russia rather than in Crimea, because they were too afraid to let him move away to Simferopol as a young Crimean Tatar man.

After their mass deportation in 1944, two generations of activists in the Crimean Tatar National Movement struggled with Soviet authorities to return to Crimea, finally achieving their aim in the late 1980s. Since annexation, the Crimean Tatar representative body the Mejlis has been banned as an extremist organisation, and dozens of Crimean Tatars have been hit by fines and court cases. The disappearances further deter anyone from showing dissent, and resemble a policy Russia perfected in the North Caucasus.

Ekaterina Sokirianskaia, Russia/North Caucasus project director from the International Crisis Group, has monitored thousands of enforced disappearances by authorities among Muslim communities in the North Caucasus region, where the resulting climate of fear means it is now almost impossible to collect information about cases.

Crimea is clearly nowhere near this level of repression. The peninsula has been under Russian rule for less than three years, and Abdureshit believes that publicising each arrest and disappearance is helping prevent more cases.

"We go round Crimea and encourage people to be open," he said.

"We explain that if you keep it to yourselves, no one will take it on and more people will be imprisoned. Here, when the first case happens the whole world knows."

People who disappear in the north Caucasus are usually those authorities think are radical but have no proof against, or influential young people who have studied or travelled abroad, according to Sokirianskaia. "Or they think this person knows something, and they can extract this information from them under torture."

Sometimes, she said, it's profitable to disappear rather than arrest or kill people, because their absence can be explained by saying they have gone to fight in Syria.

Tired of activism

Abdureshit Dzhapparov holds himself very still and speaks very quietly; it's hard to imagine that he has spent much of his life leading mass demonstrations and challenging police and presidents as a Crimean Tatar National Movement activist.

Neither of Abdureshit's sons wanted to follow in his footsteps. The oldest, Abdullah, was always out in the garden playing war games. The younger Islyam wanted to be a surgeon. Once when he was about 16 his father took him to a meeting of National Movement activists. "I asked him on the way back, 'How do you like our work?'" Abdureshit recalled. "Do you want to carry it on?" And he said, "No. I want to be an ordinary person, I don't want this, I'm tired of your Movement."

Two years before Islyam was abducted, his older brother left home and never came back. It turned out Abdullah had gone to fight against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces in Syria, and most likely died there in Spring 2013. Dzhevdet, the nephew who vanished with Islyam in 2014, also went to Syria with Abdullah, returning to Crimea in summer 2013.

Abdureshit found out about Abdullah's death from Mukhtar Arislanov, who went to the same mosque in Simferopol. Arislanov disappeared on 27 August 2015; two witnesses saw men in uniform put him into a silver van and drive away. It was 11.30 a.m.; he had popped out of the house with just his mobile and

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Marina Bilous
TEFI's co-founder

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There is now no need to leave Ukraine to get cutting-edge dental treatment. All hi-tech solutions and standards in dentistry have been brought to Ukraine by TEFI, a newly opened dental clinic in Kyiv. With technology, aesthetics, and functionality and innovation in its name, TEFI offers all kinds of dental services, from an oral hygiene school for children, spa oral hygiene, and molecular dental whitening, to implantations and surgery. The main difference is that all services have gone digital. We asked doctor Marina Bilous, TEFI's co-founder, about how it all works.

Q: What are the advantages of digital dentistry in comparison with traditional dental treatment?

A: Digital technologies can improve the quality of our treatment very much.

If a person needs a filling or a crown, we don't do it in the old manner. We use intraoral scanners, and we get digital impressions and models on our computers. Our doctors design everything they need. They check it in a digital articulator and then they mill it using a special machine (CAD-CAM technology).

We do only computerized anesthesia. We don't use syringes at all. A computer-assisted machine controls the quantity of anesthetic that is needed by each particular patient, either a child or an adult.

And we use digital technologies to remove possible human error in our sterilization laboratory.

Q: What does the "safety first protocol" used in your clinic mean?

A: Everything in our clinic is geared to the highest level of safety. This means that contamination is just impossible.

Our dental chairs are equipped with integrated sanitization adapters, and after each patient they clean themselves until they are like new.

So, not only is everything touched by patients sterilized one-hundred percent, everything else that is not directly touched by patients is also sterilized. This is a completely new approach in dentistry.

Q: How did you, a dentist growing up in a family of dentists, come up with the idea of creating such clinic?

A: I graduated from Bogomolets Medical University in Kyiv with a specialization in dentistry. Then I spent up to five years in total in educational programs in Switzerland and Great Britain in the field of maxillofacial surgery and orthodontics. This is where I came to realize what a dental clinic of the future should look like. All of the protocols and standards that we use in TEFI are from there, from the European Union. I am the one in our clinic who is responsible for these innovations and standards.

My mother, Lyudmyla Chernykh, knows everything about administration. She was the head of a dental department of one of the biggest hospitals in Ukraine for 25 years. Her job experience as a dentist spans more than 35 years. She is responsible for every treatment protocol provided in our clinic. That is how our team works.

Q: TEFI has become a referent clinic for German dental equipment producer Dentsply Sirona. What benefits does it give to your clients?

A: This means that one of the best producers of dental equipment in the world has recognized us as a referent clinic. All our equipment is from Sirona, and we can use the best of it.

We train our medical staff in Germany, and try to have each of our specialist get European certification, not only Ukrainian.

Q: Design also has its own role to play, doesn't it?

A: We invited a very talented group of Ukrainian designers: SOesthetic group. They created a space that we wanted to be more like a spa or a cultural place rather than a traditional dental clinic. We have transparent doors. When you walk along our corridor, you see everything that is happening in the dental rooms, although not the patient directly. No one feels pain, no one's screaming, or jumping to the ceiling. Patients have wireless headsets, and watch films or listen to music they like. We do our best to make it a personalized experience.

Q: What unique services do you offer?

A: Here we don't look only at the patient's mouth, but at the whole body. Often our osteopath has to correct a position of the body, and only then do we start the dentistry.

A dietitian may consult our patient before and after treatment. Sometimes you have just to correct your nutrition to have better quality teeth.

We want prevention to move to the fore. That is why we created a school of oral hygiene for children. We try to motivate and teach them how to brush their teeth properly. Every half a year, we invite them for professional spa oral hygiene - and adults as well. It's a pleasant procedure, because everything we use is not very invasive.

We carefully prepare tooth enamel before dental whitening, which is considered an aggressive procedure.

Everything we do that is connected to ceramics is computer-assisted and computer-designed.

Q: In what case is it worth going abroad to get dental services, and when is it better to obtain them here in Ukraine?

A: If you have an urgent situation, you don't have time to go abroad. If a patient says "I don't trust Ukrainian doctors" or "I want to go abroad" then we have an affiliate clinic in Hamburg, and if needed, these doctors come here as a brigade and treat those patients at their request. What we try to do is to save our customer's time.

What we don't do here is oncological treatment. We refer those patients to clinics abroad.

Q: Why is it always a good idea to invest in your health, especially your teeth?

A: Health is always the best investment. Sometimes a good dentist can make you look 10-15 years younger. A person may have pain in the neck, or back pain, and does not know that the reason for that pain is in the mouth. That is why I don't think that suffering is a good substitute for money. I truly believe that an investment in health, and understanding your body's condition, is very important for your quality of life.

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EU presses Ukraine to end lumber export ban

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
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An Austrian company alleged to be illegally exporting lumber out of Ukraine is pushing for the government to lift a ban on wood exports that was enacted to stimulate the country's domestic sawmill industry.

President Petro Poroshenko announced on Nov. 24 that he would attempt to lift the ban on unprocessed wood, sparking a wave of protests by lumber processing workers, who say that the lifting of the ban will cause the loss of their jobs.

The moratorium has stimulated growth in the Ukrainian wood industry, and has created thousands of new jobs. But it also breaks the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, which has free trade at its heart. This leaves Poroshenko in a tight spot - European officials are threatening to withhold a 600 million euro loan if Ukraine does not cancel the moratorium.

Illegal logging

The measure comes as Ukraine's forests are being cut out of existence in what many see as an environmental catastrophe. Government officials argue that regulating the flow of wood out of the country will stem the amount of illegal logging that goes on.

"For Europe, Ukraine is a source of raw materials," said Volodymyr Boreyko, head of the Kyiv Ecological-Cultural Center. "The president is acting against the national interests of Ukraine."

The situation exposes conflicts at the core of Ukraine's move towards Europe: Lifting the moratorium will bring Ukraine into compliance with



Volodymyr Boreyko

its agreement with the EU, while stunting the development of its own sawmill industry. Ukraine's forests will cease to be plundered, but to the benefit of foreign wood processors, rather than local industry.

One of the main European exporters of Ukrainian lumber - Austrian sawmill firm Schweighofer - has pushed for the ban to be lifted through the European Association of the Sawmill Industry (EOS), a Brussels-based lobbying group, which had representatives at the meeting where Poroshenko announced that he wanted to overturn the ban. Schweighofer, which has been accused of illegally smuggling lumber out of Ukraine, is a member of EOS.

Schweighofer says that it complies with all local laws and regulations. Frank Aigner, a company executive, suggested that the Kyiv Post not "exaggerate" Schweighofer's influence.

David Stulik, a representative of the EU delegation in Ukraine, told the Kyiv Post that the EU "share(s) your desire to protect Ukraine's natural environment."

"A ban on all logging (or limited logging), or even access restrictions in a particular protected area, for justified and demonstrable environmental reasons, is perfectly legitimate and acceptable: as long as such a ban or other restrictions apply equally to all," Stulik added.

"Sustainable development of Ukraine's forests should be the goal."

Lucrative lumber

Poroshenko signed the ban into law in July 2015, three months after a bill to impose it was passed by parliament in April of the same year.

Ostap Yednak, a lawmaker with the Samopomich Party who supported the law's passage, said that the bill was designed to cut down on corruption in wood exports, while chopping away at undersupply in Ukraine's domestic wood market.

"Before entering parliament, I spent 10 years in the lumber business, and I could see a lot of corruption in the export of logs during (the time of former President Viktor) Yanukovich," Yednak said. "There was a need for this in order to stop corruption and to give a chance to the Ukrainian wood processing companies to have enough logs for their work."

Yednak added that the deficit of legal wood on Ukraine's domestic market increases "demand for illegal



Activists saw a symbolic log in protest of President Petro Poroshenko's intention to lift a moratorium on unprocessed log exports. European officials are threatening to withhold a 600 million euro loan unless Ukraine ends the ban. (Ukrafoto)

logging and illegal timber among domestic producers."

The ban, as currently instituted, halts wood exports for a total of ten years. The export of most species of wood have already been banned. Pine, Ukraine's most widespread and lucrative lumber, falls under the ban starting January 1, 2017.

"The moratorium is the first attempt at the level of the Ukrainian state to protect our forests for the future," said German Taslitsky, head of the Finance Ministry's customs committee. "I want my children to be able to see the Carpathian forests."

Heavy lifting

The ban has yet to take full effect, but Sergey Sagal, head of furniture producers association Meblderevprom, said that the moratorium had already had "a positive influence."

Mykola Popovitch, a sawmill worker in the Chernivtsi oblast town of Drachnytsy, told the Kyiv Post that his mill had gotten more orders since the ban was instituted.

"It helps us make our industry better, we're processing more wood now because of it," Popovitch said in a phone interview, before adding that he had joined the national strike in protest of the ban's lifting.

The numbers tell a similar story.

Viktor Galasyuk, a Radical Party lawmaker who heads the Rada's industrial policy committee, said at

a committee meeting that Ukraine's wood processing and furniture-making businesses has seen growth of 15 percent since the ban went into effect, citing State Fiscal Service statistics.

Galasyuk added that exports of processed wood products had increased by 11 percent since the moratorium went into effect.

At the same time, widespread corruption in the customs service dampens the policy's effects.

Businesses that want to export logs for processing across the border in the EU will often smuggle the material across the border by marking it as "firewood," as a loophole in the moratorium allows firewood to go through.

Galasyuk said "for some strange reason" the export of firewood had increased by 200,000 tons since the moratorium began.

Big wood

One company that has been repeatedly accused of smuggling wood across the border is Austrian company Schweighofer, which has sawmills in northern Romania along the Ukrainian border.

In September, the Kyiv Post found that Schweighofer had concluded contracts with Ukrainian state forestry enterprises that appeared to be illegally cutting down wood.

Schweighofer is the only company

to be a standalone member of the European Association of the Sawmill Industry, a lobby that has used its clout to push both Ukrainian and European authorities to end the ban.

Silvia Melegari, EOS's secretary general, said the lobby "was present" when Poroshenko announced he would try to end the ban.

Though Melegari would not "deny that our companies have been affected," she disputed the idea that Schweighofer had special influence on the group's activities.

"No member is more than any other member," Melegari said. "Ukraine has signed an agreement. In order to get support of the EU, they have to have a free market."

Stulik, the EU representative, declined to comment on the EU's links with Schweighofer. But he did make a point that echoed Melegari's.

"Free trade agreements, which generate economic growth and jobs for both parties, mean equal access to each other's markets," Stulik said. "The EU is opening its Single Market to Ukraine, offering massive opportunities to Ukrainian companies, and Ukraine is expected to do the same for the EU."

For workers like Popovitch, the Chernivtsy sawmill, that comes as hollow comfort.

"Now, I'm against integration with the European Union," Popovitch said. "I don't want to lose my job." ■

French winemaker in Odesa Oblast says business is under attack again

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA
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When Christophe Lacarin moved to Ukraine more than a decade ago to make wine, he was beset by problems practically from day one.

Now Lacarin, a French citizen who owns the "Marquis de Lacarin" wine label and a 150-hectare vineyard in the village of Shabo in Odesa Oblast, some 500 kilometers south of Kyiv, has appealed to Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman to protect his business.

"During your latest visit to France, you (Groysman) promised to protect French investments in Ukraine from illegal takeover attempts. I ask you to ensure there is justice, and to protect the cultural heritage of the (wine-making) region," Lacarin wrote on Facebook on Nov. 25.

The wine maker appealed to Groysman after intruders destroyed grape vines in three different parts of his vineyard with a bulldozer on Nov. 25. In total, Lacarin said, more than 10 hectares of 40-year-old grape vines were destroyed by "local landholders."

"Some locals don't want me to do business here. The courts don't work, neither do law enforcers protect businesses from the bandits who destroyed my best grape vines with no court decision that would let them do this," Lacarin told the Kyiv Post on Dec. 5.

"Such barbarism makes me believe that it is the bad time for foreign investment in Ukraine," he added.

Wine wars

Lacarin told the dumskaya.net news website that he was on his way to Odesa Oblast's Fiscal Service for yet another inspection on Nov. 25 when his wife Marianna called him and said a bulldozer had driven onto his

private property and started uprooting grape vines.

"My wife called the police; they came and took a statement. I was in shock!" the businessman said.

The Frenchmen has long been in conflict with four local landholders and regulatory organs.

Lacarin moved to Ukraine and started making wine according to his family method more than 10 years ago. He applied unsuccessfully several times for a wine business license, and only obtained the right to make wine in Ukraine in April 2016, after the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, adopted a bill on simplifying the process of legalizing small wine businesses.

Lacarin managed to obtain the license with the help of then Odesa Governor Mikheil Saakashvili. But after Saakashvili resigned from his post in November, the pressure on Lacarin resumed, the Frenchman says.

"Now I'm fighting in the courts for the right to work in Ukraine. And they (the landholders) are doing everything to stop me from making wine," Lacarin said.

In 2005, Lacarin and his wife Marianna signed a 25-year rent agreement for 150 hectares of vineyards with 15 local landlords in the village of Shabo, and founded a private winery there. But they have been fighting with local businessmen and officials for the right to be a private winemaker in the area ever since.

Then in March 2015, Lacarin complained that intruders had set several of his grape vines on fire. Then in February 2016, the fiscal service raised taxes for winemakers to Hr 500,000 a year and Lacarin refused to pay such a high price.



French winemaker Christophe Lacarin shows local journalists the damaged part of his vineyard in the village of Shabo in Odesa Oblast on Nov. 25. Grape vines were destroyed by intruders with a bulldozer. (Courtesy photo from 7kanal)

Land dispute

But after the winemaker obtained a wine-making license for Hr 780 in April 2016, he thought he might finally get down to the serious business of winemaking in Ukraine.

However, a long-running dispute over the right to use the land Lacarin rents has erupted again, threatening to put a stopper in his plans once more. Lacarin is suing four out of 15 landowners he rents from.

Local businessman Olexandr Muntyan, the son of Grigori Muntyan, one of the 15 owners of the land Lacarin rents for his business, appealed to the local tax office and is now fighting with Lacarin for control of the land and vineyard.

Muntyan inherited his father's lands after his death last year. Although Lacarin has all the required rental documents, Muntyan told the Kyiv Post that French winemaker had seized his father's vineyard illegally and has no right to do business there.

Muntyan says he doesn't know who uprooted the grape vines with the bulldozer, but claimed that Lacarin himself had set his grape vines on fire in 2015 to get insurance money.

Muntyan also said Lacarin had not shown up for court hearings over the rent dispute, and instead had filed an appeal, and is now paying neither rent nor taxes.

"He refused to pay, saying the price is high. But he lives in Ukraine, his kids go to our school, he uses our roads. We also pay these high taxes, so why shouldn't he?" said Muntyan.

Lacarin told the Kyiv Post that to be a licensed winemaker in Ukraine; businessmen now have to have not only a license for winemaking, but also a license for bottling and for handling wine-making materials.

"I had to pay a Hr 75,000 penalty because my license was incomplete," said Lacarin. "But that was not all. In the rest of the world, wine is an alcoholic beverage made from fer-

mented grapes. But in Ukraine it is firstly a bottle, an excise label, and a cork. I used a traditional sealing wax to seal the bottle, instead of gluing on the tax label (as part of the seal). For that, I've got to pay a Hr 17,000 penalty."

Call for talks

In a message published by the press service of Odesa Oblast National Police department on Dec. 3, Yevgen Orlov, the head Belgorod-Dnistrovskiy district of Odesa Oblast police department, called for a meeting and negotiations between the parties to the conflict, Muntyan and Lacarin, and their lawyers.

Orlov said that after Lacarin's wife submitted her statement on the bulldozer vandalism incident on Nov. 25, the police opened a pre-trial investigation on theft, but then discovered there was a land dispute as well.

"We will identify the intruders who destroyed the property. But the landlords and tenant must solve their conflict in court," Orlov said in the press release.

Lacarin thinks Muntyan wants his land and vineyard back for a construction project, but Muntyan disputed this, saying it is still forbidden to carry out construction on agricultural land.

The Odesa Oblast Fiscal service didn't respond to questions from the Kyiv Post request about the alleged pressure being put on business in the region.

Meanwhile, in their "Wine scandal" investigation in 2015, journalists of from the local 7th TV channel traveled across Odessa Oblast's Shabo wine-making region and discovered that the one can buy homemade wine in every other yard for Hr 15 a bottle.

And the locals haven't even heard they need a license to sell wine. ■



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Full-cycle manufacturing

At the present time, Ecosoft operates 3,650 sq. m of production facilities in Ukraine and Germany. Over 300 specialists 24/7/365 contribute to the best quality of water treatment products at the market.

12 production lines of Ecosoft process over 1,300 items in the company's product range to make 20,000 shipments to distribution networks and customers each year. Over the last 25 years, Ecosoft has produced 120,000 Ecomix systems, 260,000 household and 40,000 commercial filters of reverse osmosis supplemented by 8 million cartridges, as well as 500,000 pitcher filters and over 2.5 million cartridges for them.

What makes Ecosoft special is that not only the products but the production process itself is also certified in accordance with ISO 9001:2009.

Wide network

For more than two decades now, Ecosoft has been the largest enterprise of the water treatment industry in Ukraine. Literally every Ukrainian family is familiar with the company's products under the brand names of Ecosoft, NASHA VODA and Filter1.

"Our target for now is to become the leading European manufacturer of water treatment equipment",

says Andrii Mitchenko, CEO of Ecosoft.

A number of such renowned industrial enterprises as Wimm Bill Dann, Johnson Ukraine, Sandora, Rosinka, Obolon', Clear Water, Stirol, Sinevo, Darnitsa, Kyivenergo, Bogdan Motors, Azovstal' and many others have trusted their water purification processes to the Ecosoft high-tech solutions.

In general, more than 300 plants in Ukraine and far abroad enjoy the complex water treatment systems produced by Ecosoft in compliance with local water chemical analysis requirements. The company exports its products to 46 countries on five continents around the globe, including the USA, Canada, Chile, the EU and CIS member states.

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Over \$1.2 million were invested into the company's development in 2013-2015 alone. The leader of the Ukrainian market is planning the further extension of its international footprint. In the immediate future expansion is being directed towards the European market.

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Domestic tram enterprises hope to win Western buyers

BY YULIANA ROMANYSHYN
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Despite being one of the oldest forms of public transport, trams are seeing a comeback in the cities of Europe and Ukraine, opening up opportunities for Ukraine's domestic tram producers.

As automobile use increased in the years after the World War II, tram networks in many European cities went into decline. But the success of the car has, conversely, led to congested city streets and calls for renewed investment in public transport. Trams are now proving a popular answer to many cities' transport problems.

Tram networks still operate in 23 Ukrainian cities. Much of the rolling stock dates from Soviet times, and is so dilapidated that it needs urgently to be replaced with modern vehicles. In Ukraine, two domestic producers – Electron and Tatra-Yug – are developing new designs to satisfy domestic demand for the vehicles. But they also face stiff competition from foreign tram producers.

Although trams are less flexible than buses, running on tracks and taking up space on roads, they are an economic public transport solution for cities with high groundwater



One of the seven low-floor trams, developed by local manufacturer Electron Corporation, that operates on a route connecting Lviv rail station and the city center. (Courtesy)

levels, where underground railways would be too expensive or impractical to build.

And with many cities in Europe restricting or closing off completely car access to their centers, trams are an ideal way to fill the transport gap – quiet, efficient, and producing low

or zero emissions.

For instance, in Lviv, a western city of 720,000 citizens located 530 kilometers from Kyiv, tram routes cut across the city center, where entry to other modes of transport is closed.

Besides being economic and environmentally friendly, trams are

less dangerous for passengers than both buses and cars. In the United Kingdom, 12 times fewer injuries occur on trams than on buses, according to a recent BBC report.

Tatra-Yug trams

Built on Czech know-how, Ukrainian

tram manufacturer Tatra-Yug now produces several tram models that are 95-percent constructed from Ukrainian-made parts.

Tatra-Yug is an offshoot of state-owned aerospace manufacturer Yuzhmash, which set up the company after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the resulting decline of the space industry. To reorient production from spacecraft and rockets, Yuzhmash sent some of its aerospace engineers for six months of training to the Czech tram producer Tatra, where they learned about tram manufacturing. The company then obtained permission to produce trams under license.

Today, Tatra-Yug's trams operate in 22 Ukrainian cities, mostly in Kyiv and in cities in eastern Ukraine. The company's head, Anatoliy Kerdivara, says that the quality of Tatra-Yug's vehicles is so high that they rarely need repair. Its first two trams, produced by the company in 1994, have been operating in Kyiv without having to be repaired to this day, he says.

One of the main advantages of locally produced trams is their low price – one Tatra-Yug tram costs

more **Tram** on page 9



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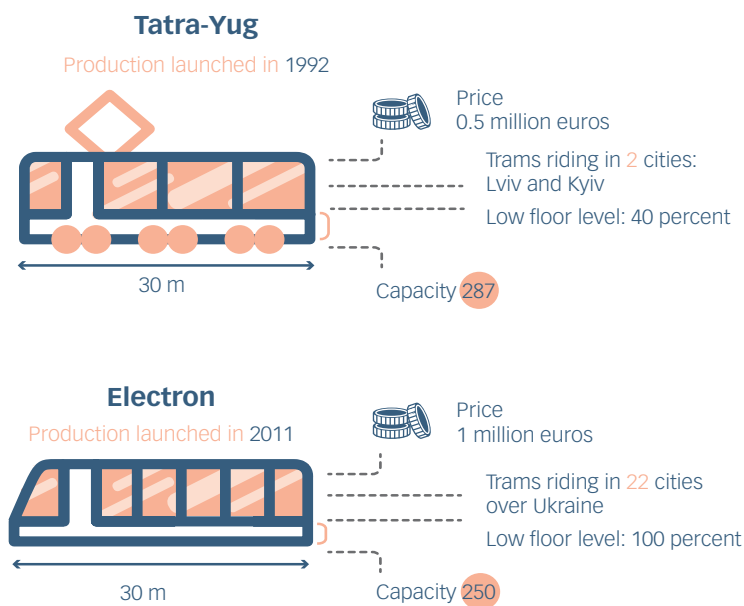
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By Ira Movchan, Kyiv Post
Sources: tatra-yug.com.ua, en.eltrans.electron.ua

Ukrainian trams produced by local manufacturers are often cheaper than similar European models.

New low-floor trams a boon for disabled users of city public transport

Tram from page 8

500,000 euros, which is six times less than a new tram made by Czech vehicle producer Skoda.

But despite all the advantages, the Ukrainian company is losing out to foreign competition. This year it failed to win a tender held by Kyiv's transport enterprise, which opted instead to buy 10 trams made by Poland's Pesa at a cost of 11.5 million euros. Meanwhile, Tatra-Yug hasn't sold a single tram all year.

Kerdivara can't understand why, in times of economic crisis and war, Ukrainian transport companies still don't buy Ukrainian.

"While we're in such a deep crisis in Ukraine, budget money is going abroad to purchase trams there," Kerdivara says. He adds that the production of Tatra-Yug trams not only gives jobs to local workers, but provides work for 250 domestic manufacturers who supply parts.

However, the picture is not all bad: by the end of 2016 the company plans to present its latest tram model – a 210-passenger capacity vehicle with a low floor that has been adapted to run smoothly on poor-quality tracks. Kerdivara also says he's expecting a final decision on an order for trams from abroad – although he won't name the potential buyer.

Low-floor Electron trams

In Lviv, the newest tram route connecting Sykhiv, a distant district of the city, with the city center was launched in November. The route operates with seven low-floor trams produced by local Ukrainian-German company Electrontrans, a subsidiary of the Electron Corporation. To supply the new route, the local producer won an international tender financed by European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, beating competing bids by Polish and Romanian tram manufacturers.

Electron produces low-floor trams 30 meters in length with a capacity of 250 passengers. The CEO of Electron Corporation, Yuriy Bubes, says that 70 percent of parts of the trams are produced in Ukraine.

For instance, the tram's engines are made in Kharkiv, and its air conditioners by another Electron enterprise. Those parts that are difficult to obtain on the domestic market are ordered from suppliers in Poland and Germany.

An Electron tram costs 1 million euros, while the average price of a European-made vehicle is around 2 million euros. Besides nine trams now operating in Lviv, two vehicles have been in use in Kyiv since the manufacturer launched production in 2011.

Besides supplying the domestic market, Electron plans to take part in tenders abroad. To do so, the manufacturer has to undergo technical assessments and obtain certificates for each country, Bubes says. Electron's CEO is also planning to provide technical services for the vehicles it hopes to sell in Europe via a Ukrainian-Polish subsidiary company it has set up.

However, the operation of low-floor trams means cities have to repair existing rails, or build new tracks, which could limit sales possibilities in Ukraine. Another problem is the use of different track gauges – Electron has to produce three different versions of its trams for the Lviv, Kyiv, and European markets, all of which have different track widths.

But once in operation, the tram is easily accessible for people with disabilities. Unlike in other trams, which at most have low floors at their doorways, and raised passenger seating areas, wheelchair users can move from one end of Electron's 30-meter-long vehicle to the other thanks to its single-level low floor.

According to Bubes, the company has received lots of positive feedback about his company's trams from people with disabilities. He says every Ukrainian city should switch to using Electron low-floor trams.

"You should see the happiness of our Sykhiv residents – their life has changed," Bubes says of the new line in Lviv with Electron trams.

"They (citizens) deserve proper transport conditions." ■

Crimean Tatars blaming FSB for many abductions

Memorandum from page 5

1,500 rubles to pay the electricity bill and buy fish.

"It's like the earth opened and he fell in and it closed again," his sister Nurfiye Karakash told me.

Crimean authorities suggest that most disappearances of Crimean Tatars are connected with Syria, or with the conflict in east Ukraine's Donbas region.

"Where are our Muslims, our combative people, the Crimean Tatars?" asked Crimean Human Rights Ombudsman Ludmila Lubina, stabbing her desk with her finger for emphasis. "They are in Ukraine fighting against Donbas and Donetsk, and they are with ISIS."

Lubina said that in 2015 Crimean police identified in Syria more than a hundred Crimean Tatars reported missing by their families, and another 72 fighting in Ukraine.

There is a small Crimean Tatar battalion in Syria, although a minimum amount of research shows that it is not aligned with ISIS (Islamic State). Sokirianskaia said she thought it numbered less than a hundred.

Abdureshit's son and nephew, Ervin Ibragimov, and most of the other 18 cases of disappearance

in Crimea, are not among those supposed hundred or 72 cited by Lubina.

Feeling of fear

Ervin Ibragimov trained in law and was a town councillor, a member of the regional Mejlis, and of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars, which meets regularly in different countries. Coming from a younger generation, he was set to take over from older Mejlis members who are now either banned from Crimea or face prison sentences.

Ilmi Umerov from Bakhchisaray (currently charged with extremism) said Ibragimov was working towards taking the place of Akhtem Chiygoz, who led the Bakhchisaray region Mejlis before being arrested in early 2015 on charges of inciting mass unrest.

"The authorities had to increase the feeling of fear among Crimean Tatars, and they chose (Ervin) because he was very active," Umerov said. "No one doubts it was the work of our Crimean FSB (security service)."

Ervin knew he had attracted the attention of Russian law enforcement agencies, his family said. But he thought the increased surveillance was related to a commemora-

tive meeting on May 18, the day the Crimean Tatars were deported in 1944 (Russia has banned any mass meetings on this day).

"He thought he'd be brought in for questioning, like in a normal country," said his father Umer. "It never occurred to him they might kidnap him; if it had, he would never have got out of the car that night."

The Ibragimov family now fill their days sending appeals to everyone they can think of, and calling Ervin's phone number, which never answers. His younger brother Osman does not go out alone, for fear of meeting a similar fate.

"It happened opposite the house, someone must have seen something but they all keep quiet," said Umer. "People are afraid, although before we weren't afraid. We walked around freely at night, but now at 10 or 11 if someone's not home you start to call: 'Where are you? Who are you with?' You start to worry."

He excused himself to smoke – this former soldier's only outward sign of nerves. "You sit here like a stone, not showing emotion," he said. "There's no protection for us now. You think you can protect yourself. But in fact, you can't protect anyone." ■



Advertisement

The Yatran trademark: A new meat culture in Ukraine

Ukrainian products are competitive

Ukrainians often think that European goods are better quality than domestic ones. But that's not true – Ukrainian products often outstrip Western ones in terms of quality. Taking the food industry as an example – strict controls on production, certified laboratories, the skills and qualifications of employees, the use of the best professional equipment – all these factors show Ukraine can compete at a high level on the international markets. In this article we will show that the phrase "Made in Ukraine" means, above all, reliability, safety and the quality offered by Ukrainian domestic enterprises. The work of one Ukrainian company, Yatran Meat Processing Plant PLC, is a prime example.

The Yatran trademark – a professional approach to production

Yatran Meat Processing Plant PLC is a developed enterprise in the meat processing industry, situated in the heart of Ukraine – in the city of Kropyvnytskyi. Over years of productive work, the sausage products of this meat processing plant won high positions in the Ukrainian market, as eloquently demonstrated by the company's numerous awards and distinctions: WorldFood Ukraine, Live Planet certificate, Choice of the Year, Favorites of Success, etc. In production, Yatran uses only the best chilled raw materials. Yatran's boiled sausage is

a leader among its competitors, and the Verzhkovi and Ditachi sausages are unique in Europe: these sausages traditionally include beef, while Europeans do not use such an expensive raw material, replacing beef with chicken and pork. In 2012, Yatran Meat Processing Plant PLC obtained a HACCP certificate, proving the quality and safety of its products. Yatran cooperates with international (Billa, Novus, METRO, Auchan) and Ukrainian supermarket chains (Varus, Silpo, Caravan, Furshet, etc.). Its bacon and Pepperoni salami are used by the world famous chain of pizza restaurants, Domino's Pizza.

From traditions to new trends

Every Ukrainian knows the taste of Kyivka Perepichka – deep-fried sausage in yeast dough. It's a kind of calling card of the country's capital. For over seven years, Yatran has been cooperating with Kyivka Perepichka, supporting this Ukrainian tradition of street food. By the way, regarding new trends in Western culture that are being adopted in Ukraine, we have to mention Christmas markets. Instead of the New Year's traditional Russian salad, Ukrainians have started to celebrate winter holidays in the town square, with a cup of hot mulled wine and grilled sausages. And here Yatran has something special to offer Ukrainians: Alpine Sausages with parsley and lemon zest, or White Sausages with marjoram and ginger. And if you still prefer a homemade meal, the "must have"

for the New Year's holidays are Ukrainian Fried Sausage and Salceson. Darnitskyi Balik is appreciated for its selected dietary meat and refined jerked taste.

Made in Ukraine

Today quality and taste are the main criteria for the selection of goods. Yatran products have been tested by time and millions of satisfied Ukrainian consumers. A team of professionals works at the enterprise, including five employees with the title of Honored Worker of Agriculture and Industry, four workers with charters from The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, one worker who has been awarded an order for high achievements, and three who have won medals. The integrity and responsibility with which the employees work, the respect for customers, and the desire to provide the best products – that is the secret of success of the Yatran trademark.

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Dmytro Firtash: Exiled political power broker

Ukraine's enigmatic gas billionaire lost his position at the top and much of his wealth after the EuroMaidan Revolution that drove his ally President Viktor Yanukovich from power. Still in exile in Vienna fighting US criminal bribery charges, he has vowed to return to Ukraine and influence events, but his prospects of a comeback are getting slimmer all the time.

Story At A Glance

Dmytro Firtash appeared from nowhere to secure an almost 50 percent share in gas deals between Russia and Ukraine, worth billions of dollars.

He has always passed off his past connections to notorious Kyiv-born organized crime boss Semion Mogilevich as "coincidence" but many, including US authorities, think there's more to it.

With his wealth, Firtash has bought up Ukraine's fertilizer and titanium plants, as well as media assets, which he uses to maintain his position from exile in Vienna.

He is currently awaiting the U.S. appeal on a rejected extradition request to face charges in Chicago for bribery. Spain has also filed extradition papers for Firtash to face trial for alleged money laundering. He's becoming the oligarch who can't, and may never, come home.

Editor's Note: The following article is part of the Ukraine Oligarch Watch series of reports supported by Objective Investigative Reporting Program, a MYMEDIA project funded by the Danish government. All articles in this series will be available in English, Russian, or Ukrainian and can be republished freely with credit to their source. Content is independent of donor.

BY ISOBEL KOSHIW
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On New Year's Eve 1996, the future Ukrainian oligarch Dmytro Firtash was lying on the floor of Hardrock restaurant in the western Ukrainian city of Chernivtsi, wearing a tracksuit and wondering if he would survive. He'd just been shot by a drunk local gangster during an argument. His friend and long-term business partner from Moscow, Oleg Palchikov, was the only witness not too squeamish to stop the blood pouring out of his stomach by sticking his fingers into the wound.

Two decades and billions of dollars later, Firtash's business dealings have led him on a rollercoaster ride that put him in the center of heavily politicized multibillion-dollar natural gas contracts between Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia and Europe. But it seems to have braked in Vienna.

Firtash would not be interviewed for this story.

He is currently awaiting the U.S. government appeal of a lower judge's refusal to extradite him to face trial in the American city of Chicago for bribes allegedly paid by him to Indian officials for a titanium plant.



Dmytro Firtash

Date of birth: May 2, 1965

Place of birth: Sinkiv, Ternopil Oblast

Wealth: \$665 million, 9th richest person in Ukraine, according to a 2016 estimate by Focus magazine. Down from \$2.7 billion in 2013.

Key Assets: Group DF, a conglomerate comprising regional gas distribution companies, titanium and fertilizer plants. The group also has several television channels: Inter TV, K1, K2, NTN, Mega, Enter Film, Zoom and Pixel.

Personal: Married to his third wife Lada Firtash. Has three children: Ivanna from his first marriage and Anna and Dmytro with his current wife.

Praised for: Donating \$5.4 million to the University of Cambridge Ukrainian Studies programs and funding scholarships for Ukrainians to complete masters degrees at the university. He has given \$4.5 million to the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. He also donated \$2.5 million to the construction of a monument to the Ukrainian Famine (1932-33) in Washington.

Criticized for: Amassing wealth through non-transparent gas deals from the late 1990s to 2013 and his businesses links to reputed organized crime figures and Russia. The most lucrative and controversial period was from 2004 to 2009 when his company RosUkrEnergo, was the sole gas intermediary between Central Asia, Russia, Ukraine and Europe.

Firtash has not been able to leave Vienna since he was arrested in his mansion at the request of the U.S. FBI in March 2014. Despite an Austrian court ruling in agreement with Firtash that the U.S. extradition request was politically motivated, the risk of leaving Austria is too high.

Indeed, some claim that Austria is especially motivated to protect Firtash because of the involvement of Austrian banks in his business dealings. Meanwhile, some of Ukraine's current authorities have

threatened Firtash with arrest if he sets foot back on home turf.

The story of how Firtash started as a driver in the mid-'90s, became one of the world's top gas traders who walked the corridors of the Kremlin and rubbed shoulders with three successive Ukrainian presidents, and then turned into the oligarch who can't come home, is one of the greatest enigmas of independent Ukraine.

He came from nowhere

Firtash first came under the spotlight in March 2006 when Russia's Izvestia newspaper reported that he stood behind 45 percent of a gas supply company called RosUkrEnergo. The Ukrainian ownership of the company, which won the contract to control the supply from Russian and Central Asian producers to Ukraine and onto Europe, had been obscured until then by Austria's Raiffeisen Investments. They also reported Ivan Fursin, a lesser-known Ukrainian businessman, held Ukraine's other 5 percent. Russia's Gazprom openly owned its 50 percent.

At some points, Swiss-registered RosUkrEnergo made as much as \$2.5 billion a quarter as the intermediary between Kyiv and Moscow, whose state-controlled gas companies could have brokered direct supply contracts. But for 20 months after the company was created, and four years after he entered the gas business, Firtash was a person only whispered about in the back rooms of Naftogaz, Ukraine's state gas company. Few people knew his name and even fewer had met him, a former Naftogaz analyst, Dmytro Marunych, told the Kyiv Post.

Despite keeping a low profile, Firtash had reached the top enclaves of political power as early as 2001. By the March 2002 parliamentary elections, he ran as one of the top candidates for the party "Women for the Future." The party was under the patronage of Ludmila Kuchma, wife of then-President Leonid Kuchma. "Women for the Future" failed to win seats in parliament, arguably not helped by some of its candidates' total absence from public life.

In fact, the Ukrainian people had no idea what Firtash looked like until The Financial Times published the first picture of him in 2006.

Firtash's "coming out," however, failed to dispel a rising number of accusations that he was involved with Semion Mogilevich, an infamous Kyiv-born organized crime boss who was for several years one of the FBI's 10 most wanted fugitives. Despite ample evidence, Firtash stringently denies ties to Mogilevich.

The FBI tied Mogilevich to a stock market scam worth millions of dollars in the U.S. but, according to them, and several European police agencies, he has also been a major player in women, arms and drug trafficking as well as natural resources. FBI Supervisory Special Agent Peter Kowenhoven told CNN in 2009 that Mogilevich is so powerful that "he can with a telephone call affect the global economy."

All a coincidence

Firtash is from western Ukraine's Ternopil Oblast and professes humble beginnings as a tomato grower, fire station worker and driver. It was as part of his work as a driv-



Depositors of Dmytro Firtash's Nadra Bank protest outside one of its branches in Kyiv in April 2010. Nadra Bank suffered from liquidity problems for several years because of poor management and insider lending. It was liquidated by the National Bank of Ukraine in June 2015. (UNIAN)

Firtash past businesses were linked to alleged organized crime boss

er, according to his official biography, that he began to sell food to Central Asia through barter arrangements common in the post-Soviet 1990s with his second wife, Mariya Kalinovska (they divorced in 2005). After securing high-level contacts within the Turkmen government, he has said, they started to work in the gas supply business. From around 2001, they quickly overtook the main existing intermediary supplier, Russia's Itera, and sealed control over the Ukrainian market and more importantly over exports to Europe. The story makes earning billions look easy.

Firtash's companies involved in the gas trading business and related barter payment schemes that preceded RosUkrEnergo were of a similarly opaque nature. Both had links to Mogilevich.

Highrock

The first was Highrock Holdings in 2001. Following this there was Eural Trans Gas, a Hungarian company created into 2002, which won a contract to supply Ukraine with the Turkmen gas that came through Russia. It replaced regional gas supply giant Itera, controlled by Turkmenistan-born Igor Makarov.

Firtash was director between 2001 and 2003. From 2002, Firtash and his ex-wife Kalinovska owned a third directly. By 2003 he acquired another third of the company through Cyprus-registered Agatheas Trading.

Galina Telesh, who according to the Hungarian authorities married Mogilevich in 1995, also held a one third stake at through Agatheas until Firtash took it over in 2003. The company was registered by Olga Schneider, who the Russian authorities say is Mogilevich's Russian wife.

In addition, Igor Fisherman, the man who the FBI have long considered Mogilevich's closest partner, had his car registered to the same Moscow address as Highrock. Firtash claimed to the Financial Times in 2006 that he bought into Highrock Holdings through Itera not knowing that Mogilevich was involved and quickly bought out Telesh's shares when he found out. But Makarov denied having any links with the company and none have surfaced.

Eural Trans Gas

The second company, Eural Trans Gas, was registered by a lawyer named Zeev Gordon who arranged for shares to be owned by three random Romanians. The company's director was Hungary's former communist Culture Minister, Andras Knopp. Gordon told anti-corruption NGO Global Witness in 2005 that he created the company on instructions from one Dmitry Vasilyevich Firtash. Gordon also represented Mogilevich at the time.

Firtash only later admitted to owning Eural Trans Gas, but never explained to the satisfaction of critics the roles of the Romanians and Gordon. And according to Firtash, Gordon had many clients "because he is a criminal lawyer."

Documents obtained by Global Witness show Eural Trans Gas was

a joint venture between Naftogaz and Gazprom, although neither side owned shares on paper. Further evidence of this is that the day the two sides announced a new joint venture, Eural Trans Gas was created as a new supply company. In an interview with the Kyiv Post in 2003, Knopp confirmed that it was a joint venture and said that the nominal owners were just part of the "restructuring process." However, instead of being passed onto the two state companies, it ended up being controlled by a complex network of offshore.

These revelations led the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in 2003 to publicly say that he was of the belief that Eural Trans Gas was linked to organized crime groups.

Firtash later claimed that these links to Mogilevich are circumstantial and places the blame on Itera's Makarov but admitted in a meeting with the U.S. ambassador in 2006, which Knopp also attended, that he had worked with Mogilevich.

Arbat Prestige

A further look into Firtash's business history shows more links between him and Mogilevich together with Kalinovska. Kalinovska is said to have introduced Mogilevich and Firtash, having met the latter through her first husband Zinoviy Kalynovsky.

Kalinovska told Ukrainska Pravda in 2007 that they jointly owned a 16.5 percent stake in Arbat Prestige from 2002, the biggest perfume business in the former Soviet Union. Arbat Prestige was reported to be owned by Mogilevich and his partner Vladimir Nekrasov. The pair was arrested for tax evasion charges relating to the perfume chain in 2008 and subsequently released.

Firtash and Kalinovska's alleged minority stake was held by lawyer Elena Yargina through a Russian company, Rinvey. Firtash continued to employ Yargina until at least 2007. Corporate records show that Olga Zhunzhurova, the wife of Fisherman, and Mogilevich's then wife, Telesh also each held 16.5 percent in Arbat Prestige through Rinvey. The remaining 50 percent was controlled by Russian businessman Nekrasov.

In an interview with The Financial Times in 2006, Firtash said that Yargina had joined Rinvey at his direction but he said he could not remember why he had asked her to do so. He also said he had no involvement in Rinvey, its business and no ties to its other owners.

The Guarantor

Observers, experts and insiders claim access to the kind of gas contracts Firtash had, yielding access to the prized markets of Ukraine and Europe, don't come without relationships with those at the very top of political power from Moscow, to Kyiv and Central Asia. How those relationships were formed is the greatest unknown when it comes to Firtash.

In 1995, Firtash was arrested and jailed for three months in Chernivtsi

for running a trucking business which smuggled contraband alcohol, according to the former journalist, now member of parliament Mustafa Nayyem, who wrote extensively about Firtash. Palchikov, the man who saved his life and would become a director at RosUkrEnergo, was also arrested. The then regional chief of police Ivan Mirniy who reportedly oversaw their release went on to be Firtash's bodyguard and now serves as a parliament lawmaker. Firtash has always denied being arrested and being involved in alcohol smuggling.

Tom Warner, the Financial Times journalist who carried out one of the first investigations into Firtash's gas businesses, told the Kyiv Post that he believes Firtash is "the new face of the Mogilevich group." Firtash would never have got into the gas business if it was just him, said Warner. According to Warner, Firtash achieved something between 1995 and 2001 which made him important enough to get a one third stake in Highrock:

"He must have somehow become important to the group. He must have been a good manager and been involved in something that was making a lot of money. The way these groups work is you earn money, you move up. Before he got to the point where he's got an equity stake in a company which buys a fertilizer company (Tajikazot purchased by Highrock in 2002) in Tajikistan. He must have already been earning money, running some operation for the group which was earning good money."

Warner's theory is that Firtash's involvement comes from the use of figures like Mogilevich during the 1990s and early 2000s in business deals to take out the side who broke the deal, otherwise known as a "garant" or a guarantor.

"Eural Trans Gas was a three-way deal among (Russian President Vladimir) Putin, Kuchma and Mogilevich. Why they decided to get rid of Itera and Mogilevich was the guy to give it to is a very good question. There were other things that Mogilevich was doing. Other things that made him important," said Warner.

As Eural Trans shares were never held directly by either parties, Warner's theory is difficult to prove. However, in recordings made and released by Kuchma's bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko, a voice resembling that of Kuchma discusses Mogilevich a total of five times on a range of subjects, including the fact that he worked as an informer for the Ukrainian and the Russian Security Services – for which according to the recordings, Mogilevich was awarded a Russian passport when he fled Hungary. (Editor's Note: The transcript of this recording and others appears in the book by Jaroslav V. Koshiw, "Abuse of Power: Corruption in the office of the president." The author is an ex-Kyiv Post editor and father of the author of this article).

Mogilevich's relationship with



Ukrainian artist Anatoliy Federenko's "Monument to oligarch Dmytro Firtash," in Firtash's former home of Chernivtsi in western Ukraine. A photo of Firtash is glued inside of a traditional gas meter box with a butterfly perched on top, representing his evolution from a driver and firefighter in Chernivtsi to an oligarch. (UNIAN)

Kuchma and Putin was further revealed by a collection of leaked intelligence documents from the Israeli and Hungarian authorities, which indicated he was used to launder money for the elites of the Soviet Union.

Presidential business

"The gas and oil business has always been considered 'presidential business'...That's how you made crazy money," Oleh Rybachuk, chief of staff

more Firtash on page 12

ADVERTISEMENT
on the call for bids on
SALE OF THE RIGHT OF CLAIM
to the Ukrainian company — member of
integrated agro-industrial conglomerate
specialized in the production of sunflower oil

UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia, a.s., identification No 649 48 242, address: Praha 4 — Michle, Želetavská 1525/1, PSČ 14092, Czech Republic, entered in the Commercial Register maintained by the Municipal Court in Prague, Section B, file 3608, (hereinafter — the «Bank»), does hereby invite interested parties to participate in the call for bids on **sale of the right of claim** of the Bank to a member of integrated agro-industrial conglomerate specialized in the production of sunflower oil ("Debtor") amounting to more than 260 mln UAH.

The Debtor is in the insolvency procedure. The claim to the Debtor has been duly filed, and has been recognized by the Debtor and by the insolvency trustee.

The right of claim is connected to the funding of purchase of technological equipment for an elevator. The right of claim is secured, among others, by pledge of technological equipment of the elevator and by mortgage of the elevator (mortgagor being a third party).

The call for bids shall be regulated by the law of the Czech Republic.

The deadline for the submission of bids:

12 December 2016 at 16:00 o'clock Central European Time.

For more detailed information of the procedure of the call for bids, conditions of familiarization with documents, terms and conditions of participation please contact "Peterka & Partners" law firm, contact person — Taras Utiralov (tel.: +380 44 581 11 20, e-mail: utiralov@peterkapartners.ua).

Critics: Gas schemes corrupted elites

Firtash from page 11

to former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, told the Kyiv Post.

RosUkrEnergo, and Eural Trans Gas before it, were just that: joint ventures created by presidents Kuchma and Putin, according to Rybachuk. Their existence was hard to justify.

Why not just supply from one state gas company to another? After all, it is the state that owns the means of production, pipelines and storage centers and, therefore, the states should benefit from any profits. Why does anyone need a Firtash figure, not least Ukraine, Russia and Turkmenistan, who 15 years previously operated as a single country? And either way, why did Ukraine's Naftogaz not own half of the joint venture, like Russia?

The official explanation from Russia was that it was too hard to get Ukraine to pay on time. An intermediary company with knowledge of the market took away this risk, it was said. Another factor widely propagated by Ukrainian officials was that RosUkrEnergo, and intermediary companies in general, were able (through unknown means) to secure a better price for Ukraine than Ukraine could secure itself. This was true. The company, some argue, supplied Ukraine with gas below-market prices.

The existence of RosUkrEnergo was something that puzzled even the likes of Rybachuk who was close to Yushchenko since their time at the National Bank of Ukraine. Unable to find a satisfactory answer at home, Rybachuk took the opportunity to ask Yushchenko's then-Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev on a trip to Moscow in October 2005. Medvedev, according to Rybachuk,



Lord Risby (second from left) watches with Lada Firtash as Dmytro Firtash (R) and the UK House of Commons Speaker John Bercow shake hands during the opening of Firtash's Days of Ukraine festival at the British parliament on Oct. 17, 2013 (Firtash Foundation)

was trying to influence Yushchenko through him. They even used the familiar "ty" form of address with each other. He asked Medvedev in his Kremlin office, which houses a goldfish aquarium, how it was possible that RosUkrEnergo was able to sell gas cheaper than market prices. Medvedev seemed surprised:

"Do you care? You must be happy?" Medvedev said.

I said: 'No I am suspicious, please explain to me.' So I actually pushed him to that level where he says again on our side everything is transparent, blah blah blah.

Then he said: 'This is a joint venture, 50 percent is yours.'

I said: 'Whose?! Mine?

Yushchenko's?

He said: 'Yes, you are the power so it is yours.' I tried to probe: 'Ok so how much is ours? \$500 million a quarter?' Then he smiled. 'So \$2 billion a year U.S.?' I said. He said: 'Yes.'

'And it is ours?': I said. 'Yes, it is yours.' he said."

Along with this news, Rybachuk returned to Kyiv with strong words from Putin that if "an understanding" wasn't reached, gas supplies to Ukraine, and therefore Europe, would be cut in January 2006. Putin was threatening Yushchenko, who at the time was facing calls by the U.S. to end the use of controversial gas trading intermediaries.

Rybachuk was supposed call

Medvedev directly from Kyiv with guarantees that RosUkrEnergo would continue to operate: "Then I would be allowed to really operate," said Rybachuk, implying that he would get a share of the profits if he convinced Yushchenko.

"So I came back to Yushchenko, I remember, I will never forget that meeting. I said to him: 'Now I know what is this. This is the way to corrupt any government in Ukraine because this is FSB operated scheme that is offshore, this is how they are making their own money and this is how they would like to corrupt us so I'm not going to call back Dmitry Medvedev. It's clear for me that I cannot pursue this line.' And

Yushchenko was looking into the window and telling me nothing. He was not looking into my eyes."

Kremlin spokespeople did not respond to request for comment.

Carpathian agreement

According to Rybachuk, he set about getting guarantees from the European Union and the U.S. State Department that Ukraine would not be forced into a deal if Russia cut off the gas. But when Russia did cut off the gas on Jan. 1, 2006, a meeting was held at Yushchenko's summer house in the Carpathians to which Rybachuk was not invited and an agreement was reached that RosUkrEnergo would become the sole supplier.

No official record of the meeting at Yushchenko's mountain summer house has ever been released but certain people were present who, they say, for legitimate reasons tried to convince Yushchenko into keeping RosUkrEnergo. One was Petro Yushchenko, his brother who introduced Firtash to the president, according to Rybachuk, and was himself involved in the gas business. The other was Hares Youssef, a Syrian businessman who worked in Ukraine for 20 years and is a close friend of Firtash and Yushchenko.

"I took Firtash by the hand when I was convincing Yushchenko to keep RosUkrEnergo. I personally convinced him because I knew Yulia (Tymoshenko) was behind the plans to get rid of it. I knew that she wanted to take the gas business and whom with. And if RosUkrEnergo was cut out the business then Ukraine would get gas for \$50-70 more expensive," said Youssef. He told the Kyiv Post during an August interview that in return, Yushchenko asked Firtash to reveal his ownership

Firtash lost libel case against Kyiv Post

BY ISOBEL KOSHIW
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Ukrainian oligarch Dmytro Firtash has a complicated history with the Kyiv Post, Ukraine's most-read English language newspaper. The gas tycoon accused the newspaper of libel in London's High Court, but a judge dismissed the case.

The British judge, John Leslie, concluded that his link to English jurisdiction was "tenuous in the extreme." The Kyiv Post's case was hailed as a victory for press freedom worldwide and a blow to so-called libel tourism.

"Mr. Firtash had no residence here, nor any active business pursuits. I have been given no evidence of visits to this country, the length of his stay if he does come here or where he stays. There is absolutely nothing to connect him with this country," said Leslie.

The case was over a July 2010 article: "Gas trade leaves trail of lawsuits, corruption," which focused on Firtash's intermediary company Swiss-registered RosUkrEnergo and



Oliver Spence, Boyko Boev and Mushegh Yekmalyan of Article 19, a London-based group that defends free speech, holds up a banner in support of the Kyiv Post outside The Royal Courts of Justice in London on Feb. 24, 2011. Dmytro Firtash sued Kyiv Post for libel in 2010. The judge dismissed the case before it even reached trial, finding Firtash had no standing in the London court. The case was seen as a victory against so-called libel tourism. (George Torode)

suggested that then visiting U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton "should urge (the Ukrainian) authorities to kick off an anti-corruption campaign with ... the murky – yet highly lucrative – natural gas sector."

Firtash's lawyers said aspects of the article were "false and grossly defamatory." The Kyiv Post temporarily blocked access to its United Kingdom readers in protest against the country's libel laws, which made it easy for foreigners to sue in a London court.

"The story wasn't libelous, and we – then and now and in the future – have and will repeatedly offer Mr. Firtash the opportunity to correct, respond and tell his side of the story. He has chosen so far to talk in court," said Kyiv Post chief editor Brian Bonner at the time. "If news media cannot report on public allegations made by current or former top public officials involving a public figure, then how can [they] find out what is happening in their nation?"

Firtash has always declined interviews with the Kyiv Post.

Firtash's ties to Western politicians did not save him from legal troubles

Firtash from page 13

the deal, Putin offered Ukraine a discount, says Victoriya Voytsitska, a deputy and the secretary of the parliamentary energy committee. "The contract was political. Putin could decrease the price according to loyalty of the Ukrainian authorities," said Voytsitska.

In return, Firtash directed his efforts towards bringing Tymoshenko down in the 2010 presidential election by pouring money into the successful campaign of Viktor Yanukovich. Upon taking power, Yanukovich imprisoned Tymoshenko for the deal. Firtash's close allies were put in charge of State Security Service of Ukraine, the Presidential Administration, the Energy Ministry and key positions at Naftogaz.

Yanukovich's administration also failed to defend Naftogaz in a case against RosUkrEnergo for 11 billion cubic meters of gas Tymoshenko expropriated after taking on the company's \$1.7 billion gas debt. Naftogaz was forced to return the gas, worth \$3 billion, and pay RosUkrEnergo \$200 million.

Leonid and two Viktors

Firtash and his allies are "the most politically astute of the oligarchic groups," according to Taras Kuzio, a British academic on Ukraine. Under each of the presidencies, Firtash's two closest partners have repeatedly held strategically important positions.

Due to his family connections, Serhiy Lyovochkin was a presidential assistant to Kuchma when Firtash first started supplying gas, then assistant to Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and finally his chief of staff after Yanukovich became president. Yuriy Boyko was head of Naftogaz in the early 2000s and twice energy minister. Together they managed to convince Kuchma, Yushchenko and Yanukovich of his indispensability.

When it was clear that Yanukovich was not going to survive the Euromaidan Revolution, "they saw the writing on the wall, according to Kuzio, and Firtash's self-declared



Former deputy head of Ukrainian state gas company Naftogaz Ihor Didenko is on trial on Sept. 5, 2011 for his role in appropriating 11 billion cubic meters of gas from RosUkrEnergo. Critics said charges levied by former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich against Didenko and others (including former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who negotiated the agreement with Russia) were aimed at reinstalling Firtash's, and therefore, Yanukovich's, control over Naftogaz. (UNIAN)

"old friend," Lyovochkin, resigned as Yanukovich's chief of staff in January 2014. Firtash and Lyovochkin's channel Inter, which is one of the most watched in Ukraine, subsequently switched its support to Petro Poroshenko, helping him secure the presidency in the 2014 election.

"They basically facilitated their post-Yanukovich life by ensuring Poroshenko came to power. That ensured that they were not on any Interpol watch lists," said Kuzio. "Now it's obviously a complete joke that if Yanukovich is crook and 'mafioso' that his chief of staff is not as well. Either his chief of staff is completely useless and didn't know what was going on, or if he did know what was going on ... he's as guilty as his boss."

Throughout the last decade, Firtash also cemented close ties with influential politicians across Europe. London, which he perceives as the "No. 1 financial center," as he told The Wall Street Journal, has been the main focus.

With an uncertain situation in the Austrian courts because of the U.S., and Poroshenko seeming happy to have him out of the way, these foreign ties are arguably more important to Firtash.

EU sanctions

Just after the bloody end of the EuroMaidan Revolution, when dozens of protesters were shot dead in February 2014, Firtash met with British Foreign Office officials in London. Labor MP and treasurer of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Ukraine, Helen Goodman, made an official request for details about the nature of the meeting. The Foreign Office did not make public who was present and what was discussed.

David Cameron, then-British prime minister, has said several times that Britain was at the forefront of implementing the E.U. sanctions against Russia and Goodman believes, therefore, that the British Foreign Office is "very powerful for Firtash." Despite Firtash being one of the main financiers of Yanukovich, and Lyovochkin's position as chief of staff, neither were placed on the sanctions list.

"It's my contention, now I can't prove this, that Firtash had access to the (British) Foreign Office, to officials because he gave money to the Conservative party," Goodman told the Kyiv Post. In total, the Conservative party, its MPs and Lords have received at least £300,000 from companies or individuals employed by Firtash, according to parliamentary and party donor registers (see British connections infographic).

Parliamentary influence?

Perhaps the most contentious aspect

of the payments is their recipients' connections to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Ukraine. Their positions in the group make it difficult for them to deny that they are involved in parliamentary matters connected to Ukraine. The payments were highlighted by The Wall Street Journal in 2015, but the scandal didn't deter some from continuing their association with Firtash.

In 2015, Lord Risby, secretary of the All Party Parliamentary Group and chairman of Firtash's



OLIGARCH WATCH

London-based British Ukrainian Society, stopped receiving money from Spadi Trading, according to his register of interests. Instead he noted a different company under his remuneration and paid employment section: British-registered Global Strategies Limited. Global Strategies is directed by Firtash's employees ex-Bell Pottinger's Antony Fisher and accountant Timothy Saxton (see British Connections graphic) and registered to the same address as the British Ukrainian Society. It has no website.

Neither the Lords Commissioner for Standards nor the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards has received any complaint or initiated any investigation into Firtash's connections to the UK parliament.

The Kyiv Post made several attempts to contact Risby for an interview but received no response. In September, Risby attended the Yalta European Strategy conference in Kyiv, along with Tory MP Gerard Howarth, who is chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Ukraine. Their trip was paid for by the British Ukrainian Society.

The Kyiv Post took the opportunity to ask Risby to describe the work he did for Global Strategies Limited. Risby responded by saying that he

had "never heard it." The Kyiv Post showed Risby his registered interests online to which he responded: "I don't know what that (Global Strategies) is doing there ... Thank you for pointing it out. I will have it removed."

Risby was also asked about his work at the British Ukrainian Society and how its links to Firtash might be considered a conflict of interest with his work at the All Party Parliamentary Group. He said allegations that the idea that the British Ukrainian Society had anything to do with Firtash was "absolute rubbish." This is despite Firtash telling The Wall Street Journal that he had founded the society together with Raymond Asquith, now known as Lord Oxford, and advisor Robert Shetler-Jones, also British, to "forge ties between politicians from the two countries" and "improve his reputation."

Labor Lord Davis of Stamford, who is also an officer on the All Party Parliamentary Group but was unaware of payments, told the Kyiv Post: "As you've presented the facts to me, if these two colleagues were receiving payments from a Ukrainian oligarch while being chairman (officers) of the APPG then that is a scandalous state of affairs."

Davis of Stamford also said that Risby is "more inclined to a pro-Russian viewpoint" but that they'd never had any detailed discussion.

British intelligence

Firtash's money has also made its way to former and current British military intelligence figures. Lord Oxford, a former MI6 spy in Soviet Moscow and ex-British diplomat to Ukraine is a member of the supervisory council at Firtash's company, Group DF. Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones, chair of the joint intelligence committee (advises the government using intelligence of the three British intelligence agencies), was blocked from receiving a promotion because she received £20,000 from Shetler-Jones. Firtash purchased a Ministry of Defense-owned London tube station for roughly £53 million in 2014.

Goodman also questioned the British government's decision to accept money from Firtash for the tube station but said she received an unclear response. The British Ministry of Defense told the Kyiv Post that they were satisfied that all the necessary legal checks were carried out though they failed to detail the nature of those checks.

In August, 2016, the UK's Channel 4 Tv station said it saw documents that Firtash paid only a third upfront, meaning the British taxpayer gave Firtash a loan of £33 million.

Shetler-Jones, the former CEO and now member of the supervisory council at Group DF, is credited with connecting Firtash to these levels of British society. He came to Kyiv in the late 1980s, according to him, to learn Russian - which he speaks perfectly by all accounts.

Phil Hudson, an architect and Kyiv property developer, employed



Dmytro Firtash, founder of Group DF, speaks in January 2009 on Freedom Inter, an evening talk show on his Inter channel, one of Ukraine's most-watched stations. Inter was 29 percent owned by Russia's state First Channel until 2015 when it divested its shares to Group DF. Inter has come under criticism from Interior Minister Arsen Avakov for being pro-Russian, while Firtash accuses Avakov of starting a fire at Inter's studios on Sept. 4 to shut down freedom of speech. (UNIAN)

With big financial help from Russia, Firtash takes over gas trade; role diminished today

Shetler-Jones in the mid-1990s to help with clients: "He was a young guy, looking to make money," recalled Hudson. "I remember that after he left us, he was involved in property in Moscow. I met him maybe five or six years later in Arizona (restaurant). He didn't want to talk. Then I received a phone call from Martin Harris, (general consul at the British Embassy to Ukraine at the time), he asked me about Robert (Shetler-Jones) and whether he came from money. Whether he would have enough money to buy a fertilizer plant. I said 'No.' It was only later it came out it (the plant) was owned by Group DF."

"Either MI6 has penetrated Firtash or Firtash is penetrating them and it's a cock up," said Hudson.

Putin's agent?

Firtash's rise in Ukraine coincided with the expansion of Gazprom's influence throughout Europe and many claimed that he was a "Putin agent" -- hooking the Ukrainian elite, economy on low gas prices on Moscow's behalf. As a Jamestown Report in 2009 titled 'Gazprom's Web' illustrated, since Putin came to power, through other intermediaries Russia's state gas company has influenced the elites of Hungary, the Czech Republic, Germany, and Italy.

According to Youssef, however, Firtash is no different to any other Ukrainian oligarch when it comes to his relationship with Moscow.

"Well I think if you look at the Ukrainian oligarchs, at all the big businessmen, not a single one of them would have been able to do big business in Ukraine without good and big contacts in Moscow," said Hares.

This fact doesn't erase the billions of dollars, (a Reuters investigation claimed as much as \$11 billion,) Firtash received in financial backing from one of Putin's closest allies, Arkady Rotenberg, as well as other Russian bankers close to Putin, without which Firtash would not have been able to rebuild his gas business, destroyed temporarily by Tymoshenko in 2009, and expand his business empire by buying up Ukraine's fertilizer and titanium industry. No other Ukrainian oligarch has received loans of such size from Russia.

Russian billionaire Vasily Anisimov, a business partner of Rotenberg, also posted a record \$174 million in bail for Firtash in Vienna.

But according to Youssef, Firtash is a "Ukrainian patriot," and has invested his profits back into Ukraine:

"For Russia, Firtash was a bad and unprofitable partner because Firtash was representing the interests of Ukraine. He took the interests of Ukraine in his own hands. And helped Ukraine more than Russia. In 2005, 2006 and 2007, before Yulia (Tymoshenko) interfered."

Acquiring total control

Under Yanukovich, Firtash and his partners' control over Ukraine's gas sector went from majority to total, according to Yuriy Vitrenko, chief advisor at Naftogaz, who has worked in top positions on and off at the company since 2002.

Through Boyko's "vertical" as minister of energy, they appointed their allies to all the top positions in Naftogaz and at the Naftogaz subsidiaries Ukrtransgaz and Ukrzavzvydobuvaniya, gas transit and production monopolies. At the same

time Firtash's "vertical" bought up a series of regional gas distribution companies. They were able to control both the state and private sector, Vitrenko told the Kyiv Post.

In 2013, the year preceding the EuroMaidan Revolution, businessman Serhiy Kurchenko, one Yanukovich's closest allies and known by the press as part of the "family," came into conflict with the Firtash's gas group. Ukrainska Pravda reported that Kurchenko started to place his people on the board at Naftogaz in order to further aid his gas import scheme. Reuters reported in 2014 that Firtash's Ostchem used to sell Kurchenko cheap Russian gas, which Kurchenko would sell on at market prices. It was Firtash's way of rewarding Yanukovich, said Reuters' sources.

By this time, the greed of Yanukovich's family was getting so out of control that some believe a pact among oligarchs was reached to undermine the president, yet keep the oligarchic system in place. In this environment, Lyovochkin appeared to serve as a moderator balancing the interests of Yanukovich, Kuchma and his son-in-law, Victor Pinchuk (from his days at Kuchma's administration) and that of his friend and business associate Firtash.

Revolution disrupts

In November, Interior Minister Arsen Avakov accused Lyovochkin, who was then head of Yanukovich's administration, of ordering the beating of students on Nov. 30, 2013: "His place is in jail not parliament." Avakov hinted that Lyovochkin ordered the beatings in order to increase public anger towards Yanukovich.

Lyovochkin has denied the accu-



Dmytro Firtash (C) and Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko (L) attend a visit of Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill to Ukraine's Bukovyna region on Oct. 3, 2011. (Ukrafoto)

sations, saying the beatings were the reason he resigned. But Yanukovich rejected his resignation, and Lyovochkin stayed on until Jan. 17.

Artem Shevchenko, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior, told the Kyiv Post that this was "Avakov's political position," and that only the National Anti-Corruption Bureau had the right to investigate parliamentary deputies such as Lyovochkin.

The violence perpetrated against the students by Ukraine's riot police is seen as the turning point in the protest movement. The following day hundreds of thousands of people took to Kyiv's streets.

Yanukovich, ex-Interior Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko and former Kyiv Police Chief Valery Koryak (all three are currently in exile in Russia) have also accused Lyovochkin of being behind the beatings. Most recently for a trial on the Maidan protests via video link from exile in Russia, Yanukovich retracted his initial accusations. He said of the beatings on Nov. 28:

"Yes, maybe he (Lyovochkin) had something to do with it. But I personally have no evidence of this, and evidence has not been established. Therefore, if it was so, then the authorities should prove it, if they don't prove it, let it be on his conscience. Or if he is innocent, then let those who say such things should apologize, it should be established by the court," Yanukovich said.

Investigative journalist turned parliament deputy, Sergii Leshchenko, who has seen orders and protocols written by Yanukovich cronies during the EuroMaidan Revolution said that he hadn't seen one signed by Lyovochkin.

Others believe that Oleksandr Yanukovich, the president's older son, was behind the crackdown but that Lyovochkin must have known about it.

Via video link Yanukovich also accused Firtash and Lyovochkin of plotting to bring down the Party of Regions and "destabilize" the country. Analysts have pointed to the fact that his speech must have been pre-approved by the Kremlin, and is a direct sign of their discontent with the Firtash group.

The Naftogaz divorce

The Firtash clan's world, just like for Yanukovich, broke down because of the EuroMaidan Revolution.

The main strategy of the post-revolutionary government of Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk government was to get rid of Gazprom's influence in Ukraine and stop the reliance on Russian gas, according to former journalist and now

People's Front deputy Serhiy Vysotsky. Ukraine stopped buying Russian gas directly in April 2014. At the time, the presidential executive and the government were controlled by People's Front politicians: then Acting President Turchynov, Acting Prime Minister Yatsenyuk and Acting Interior Minister Avakov.

"They went after Firtash very much. They started to prosecute Firtash. To prosecute Yevhen Bakulin (former Gazprom CEO, now Opposition Bloc deputy and Boyko's friend)," said Vysotsky.

Most of Firtash's allies in charge of Naftogaz and its subsidiaries fled, according to Vitrenko. The new management at Naftogaz proceeded to fire dozens of people at the very top, said Vitrenko, though their control is not yet total. At Ukrtransgaz, three of the top managers, who were managers at Firtash companies, currently head the company.

"Since this group controlled the whole gas sector for years, it's at least reasonable to expect that they still have a lot of people who worked with them and there are some strings attached from these people to the Firtash group," said Vitrenko.

Inter's influence

Yatsenyuk's party and government also went after Firtash's television channel Inter, among Ukraine's most watched. In February 2015, they pushed for a law banning Russian ownership in Ukrainian media assets. Until then, Inter was officially 29 percent owned by the Russian state channel, First Channel, who divested their shares to Group DF, according to a Group DF statement. Group DF's director Borys Krasnyansky said at the time that the Russian owners had no influence over management.

"We consider it a fake sale. We consider there was no real sale of Russian interests in the channel. We see it (their interest) through the management of the channel, the channel's agenda," says Vysotsky, referring to the two Russian journalists who called the post-Maidan authorities "junta" and "fascists" before becoming managers at the channel. One has since been deported to Russia by the Ukrainian authorities.

In response, according to Vysotsky, Firtash started to attack People's Front using Inter.

Nataliya Ligacheva, director of media monitoring group Media Detector, says that the channel's content is "completely thought out." According to her, People's Front is the only group Inter attacks: "It used



Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin (R) and his Ukrainian counterpart Yulia Tymoshenko attend a signing ceremony in Moscow on January 19, 2009. (AFP)

While Firtash's bank collapsed, he still retains levers of influence

Firtash from page 15

to be Yatsenyuk, Yatsenyuk and now it's Avakov every day."

In September, the animosity appeared to cumulate in a fire at Inter's second TV studios. Firtash said that Avakov personally ordered the fire to shutdown "freedom of speech" in an interview with RBC Ukraine in October. Avakov has said that the fire was staged and called the channel a pro-Moscow mouthpiece.

"He puts Yanukovich employees on the news and makes them appear wonderful: 'They can reunite the country... We need peace... Our government is incompetent.' They don't say anything about the war and Russian aggression in Ukraine. They all say we need peace and the Opposition Bloc (the party which Firtash's group supports, along with oligarch Rinat Akhmetov) will give you peace. They are creating disillusionment among Ukrainian citizens. This is one of the key Russian strategies - to spread disillusionment," said Vysotsky.

While they never praise Putin, they avoid criticizing him and mentioning Russia's involvement in the war, says Ligacheva. "They are maybe not direct agents of the FSB, with hats and big glasses, but they robbed Ukraine in favor of Russia," said Vysotsky.

The Kyiv Post asked Lyovochkin about the accusations against Inter at an art exhibition in Kyiv. He said: "Inter is 100 percent pro-Ukrainian. We have millions of viewers and we are very grateful for that."

Interestingly, according to Ligacheva, the channel this year has given favorable coverage to Tymoshenko and her Fatherland party. According to several deputies the Kyiv Post spoke with, they perceive Tymoshenko to be in a situational alliance with Firtash as she is also pushing for early elections. Despite her long running history with Firtash, Tymoshenko refused to comment on "the past" for this story.

"It's not like Putin calls Lyovochkin

or Tymoshenko and says directly you must do 'xyz,'" said Vystotsky. "But by the nature of their destabilizing actions, they are empowering Putin's plan in Ukraine."

Ukraine and partners

An Austrian judge ruled in April 2015 that the U.S. extradition request for Firtash was politically motivated and he is now awaiting the result of the U.S. appeal. The judge said the U.S. failed to present key witnesses and pointed to the fact that the U.S. had recinded a request in October 2013 after receiving assurances from Yanukovich that he would sign the EU Agreement.

Emails from the FBI to the Austrian authorities seen by The Guardian in 2016 support the theory that the arrest was politically motivated. According to The Guardian, the U.S. was trying to get Firtash out the way in order to allow for the creation of a pro-European government.

According to Youssef, the U.S. arrested Firtash on request of the Ukrainian government in order to take full control over the economic resources of the country and reassign his property: "Dima didn't fit with the interests of the new team... It was advantageous for everyone."

Another rumored advantage for the US is the potential information on Russia's elite that they may be able to extract from Firtash.

In interviews that echo the Kremlin line, Firtash has said that the current authorities have brought the country to the edge of catastrophe and that the U.S. is governing Ukraine from abroad. He has also said that his businesses are being dismantled by the authorities in his absence.

Since the EuroMaidan Revolution, aside from losing most of his control over the state gas sector, Firtash's bank Nadra was declared insolvent, he was removed from his position at the Federation of Employers Association, his titanium plant in Crimea has been (along with other businesses) sanctioned by Ukraine, a



Dmytro Firtash (L), one of Ukraine's most influential oligarchs, attends a court hearing on April 30, 2015 in Vienna. The billionaire was arrested in Vienna at the request of the FBI to face trial in Chicago for bribery. A Viennese judge ruled that the U.S. request was politically motivated. Firtash is now awaiting the result of the U.S. appeal, which should be heard in January 2017. (AFP)

court took 95 hectares of allegedly illegally sold forest from Group DF and he has been forced to pay millions of dollars to Naftogaz for his fertilizer companies.

There is also a question of whether he will hold onto his regional gas distribution companies and tacit control over Ukrtransgaz. Parliamentary energy committee Secretary Voytsitska says that a shakeup of the sector is required to fully implement the new gas market law which includes installing meters for consumers to reduce costs.

"The current status quo allows the regional distribution companies to continue unchecked and almost without control to use the state gas networks," said Voytsitska.

However, at present, Firtash, according to Vitrenko, is resisting the changes.

Voytsitska also doesn't see this happening in the near future.

Vitrenko said of Firtash's claims that his businesses were being attacked by the current authorities: "The real question is whether this is good or bad. If your whole business model is basically something really dodgy and really bad in terms of law, fairness, competition then going after those business interests is probably the right thing to do."

'Vienna Pact' alive

Firtash remains a top 10 oligarch and his fellow oligarchs could argue they've been hit worse in the last two years.

"There haven't been attacks on Firtash's businesses in the same way as (oligarch Ihor) Kolomoisky," said Leshchenko, referring to Poroshenko's push to get rid of Kolomoisky's



Dmytro Firtash (R) greets fellow oligarch Rinat Akhmetov. The pair have supported the defunct Party of Regions, led by overthrown President Viktor Yanukovich, and the Opposition Bloc, its replacement created after the EuroMaidan Revolution. (UNIAN)

alleged rent-seeking at majority state-owned oil producer Ukrnafta.

"The Vienna Pact is still working," said Leshchenko, referring to a meeting among Firtash, President Petro Poroshenko and boxer politician Vitali Klitschko in Vienna just after he posted bail in March 2014. The alleged deal saw Firtash pledge support for Poroshenko in the elections on Inter, in exchange it seems for freedom from prosecution for his allies: Boyko and Lyovochkin.

Firtash told the court in Vienna that he convinced Klitschko to stand down in the presidential elections to clear the way for Poroshenko. Poroshenko and Klitschko deny any deal was made.

Inter continues to present Poroshenko with neutrality, said

Ligacheva. The channel is also the most popular channel in the east of the country, according to Ligacheva, because of its majority Russian -language content -- this viewership is very important for Poroshenko. Poroshenko also relies on the Opposition Bloc, where Boyko's and Lyovochkin's opinions are very powerful, says Leshchenko. The current ruling coalition is so fractious that their deputies can sink or turn votes in parliament.

"They were very successful in reinventing themselves," said Kuzio. "And now they control half of Opposition Bloc."

A Firtash return?

Firtash has repeatedly stated his intention to return to Ukraine and



This building on 206 Brompton Road was purchased by Ukrainian oligarch Dmytro Firtash on Feb. 27, 2014 from the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense for roughly \$80 million. (Borys Trotsenko)

Firtash remains defiant: 'They should be afraid...'

said that he will seek to influence events in the country. That's unless the Austrian judges decide to send him to Chicago to face trial or he isn't extradited to face trial in Spain for money laundering. Spain filed extradition papers with Austria on Nov. 30. If the Austrian court finds no circumstances which contradict the Spanish extradition request, it will go to trial. This could mean another few years in Austria and potentially a lengthy trial in Spain.

The Ukrainian authorities have issued mixed messages regarding whether they would arrest him if he returned to Ukraine.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry, Artem Shevchenko, told the Kyiv Post that last year Ukraine said it would cooperate with its Western "partners" in handing Firtash over to the FBI for trial.

However, the ministry might revise its position depending on the outcome of Firtash's appeal, said Shevchenko. He also said that there are several ongoing criminal investigations into companies where Firtash had alleged interests or is a current shareholder, such as UkrTelecom and Ostchem. "There are lots of people who want to talk to Firtash," said Shevchenko.

If he was allowed back he would arguably need to once again prove

his worth to Russia as a power broker in order to regain his position.

But his fertilizer plants are no longer buying Russian gas, indicating perhaps that he is no longer treated to preferential prices after losing much of his control over the sector.

And his loyalty to the Kremlin has been questioned by Russia's top circles. In an interview with Firtash, without naming names, Bloomberg reporter Ryan Chilcote said that his Russian partners believe the U.S. agreed not to extradite Firtash in exchange for information on the workings of Gazprom and Rotenberg. Firtash denied this saying he has never met with the FBI: "I did not tell anyone anything, because I have nothing to tell."

Vitrenko believes that it would also be difficult for Firtash to undo improvements made at Naftogaz.

"Although he's not here, his businesses are here, his managers are here. They fly to Vienna every week to get instructions from him so I can't see any big change," said Vitrenko.

From the comfort of Vienna, however, Firtash appears unfazed by the threat of arrest by Ukrainian officials. Asked in October if he was afraid to return home, he told RBC Ukraine: "They should be afraid of me."







For now, Firtash's fate lies in the hands of Austrian judiciary. Ukraine could be one oligarch down. ■



Dmytro Firtash's Azot fertilizer plant in Ukraine's Cherkasy Oblast. Firtash got billions of dollars in loans from bankers in Russian President Vladimir Putin's inner circle to buy fertilizer plants in Ukraine. (Courtesy)



Former Chief of Staff Serhiy Lyovochkin (L) with former Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovich in March 2013. Now exiled in Russia, Yanukovich has accused Lyovochkin of betraying him during the EuroMaidan Revolution, a charge that Lyovochkin denies. (UNIAN)

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International Women's Club of Kiv raises money for needy with annual bazaar

Kyiv's Olimpiysky Stadium was filled with thousands of people on Dec. 3 for the annual Charity Bazaar organized by the International Women's Club of Kyiv. More than 40 embassies hosted stalls and sold goods and delicious food at this year's 24th Charity Bazaar. The event ran from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 1. Visitors check out products from Peru. 2. A man samples some tequila at the Mexican stand. 3. A representative of Sudan invites guests to examine his wares. 4. Girls enjoy painting on their hands at the Indian stall. 5. Korean dancers perform on stage. 6. Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Roman Waschuk speaks to a visitor. 7. A girl takes a picture with Santa. 8. A woman checks out a traditional Vietnamese hat. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

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Putrov makes triumphant return to the stage in Kyiv



Film Critic

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Lobanovskiy legend lives on in movie

Valeriy Lobanovskiy, the much-loved Dynamo Kyiv soccer player and manager, and the former national coach of both the Soviet team and Ukraine's national side, has been immortalized with statues, and had streets named in his honor since his death 14 years ago.

Now the sporting legend has been remembered in film, with the release of a 92-minute documentary by director Anton Azarov. The debut offering by Azarov mourns not just the legendary Lobanovskiy, but the times when soccer was something bigger than a game in Ukraine.

The documentary film "Lobanovskiy Forever," makes wide use of newsreels and footage of Dynamo Kyiv team training, painting a vivid picture of another era, the golden era of Soviet football, when the people of occupied nations found an outlet for repressed patriotism by rooting for local clubs.

Dynamo Kyiv, under the leadership of Lobanovskiy, was a particularly outstanding example.

"This was another epoch," says poet Yurii Rybchynskiy, a witness of those times, in one scene in the documentary. "The only legal way to express patriotism was football," he said, noting that people used to come from all corners of the Soviet Union to support Lobanovskiy's Dynamo Kyiv.

The documentary includes lots of interviews with former players, colleagues and journalists, testifying to Lobanovskiy's love of soccer, and the respect he earned as a player and manager. The interviewees include French internationals Michel Platini and Jacques Ferran, along with Artem Frankov, Leonid Kravchuk, Alexey Andronov, Oleg Bazylewicz Jr., Oleg Blokhin, Rinat Dasaev and many others.

Through the footage and interviews, and a narrative that constantly switches from past to present, viewers are given a rare glimpse into the personality of the "rarely smiling" but "extremely concentrated" Lobanovskiy.

"I do not know him, but looking at the way he created the team that was playing against us, I should say he's a remarkable trainer," Germany's Franz

more Lobanovskiy on page 20



Ballet dancer Ivan Putrov performs in his "Men in Motion" show at the National Opera of Ukraine in Kyiv on Nov. 27. Apart from producing and curating the show, Putrov also performed one of the roles. (Oleksandr Putrov)

BY MARIA ROMANENKO
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A four-year wait for international ballet star Ivan Putrov came to an end on Nov. 27, when his own show, "Men in Motion," was staged in the National Opera of Ukraine in his hometown Kyiv.

The day after the show, as Putrov talked to the Kyiv Post, he gushed about the positive reception given to his show, which he first staged in 2012, and that he had long dreamed of bringing to his home.

"It was very pleasing to see the show going ahead, and the audience

arriving and being happy from the beginning," Putrov said, laughing.

"It even felt like the whole audience was fake, and paid to clap and cheer," he joked.

The 36-year-old ballet dancer, who moved to London as a child, has a busy schedule. Straight after the interview with Kyiv Post he flew back to London, from where he will proceed to the United States, in order to dance in the ballet "The Nutcracker."

His father is with him during the interview and sometimes contributes to his answers.

Despite moving to London Putrov comes to Kyiv regularly.

"Maybe I also need to bring 'Men in motion' to Kyiv again. What do you think? Should I bring it again?" Putrov asks.

Artistic childhood

Putrov, who was born in Kyiv in 1980, has had an impressive dancing career, including being the UK Royal Ballet's principal from 2001 to 2010, winning the UK's National Dance Award for Outstanding Young Male Artist (Classical) and starring in famous shows all over the world.

His parents Natalia Berezina-Putrova and Oleksandr Putrov (who now works as a photographer) were

ballet dancers at the National Opera of Ukraine.

"My mom wanted me to dance and my dad didn't. But I did karate. Right, dad?" Putrov looks at his father.

"He's not listening."

Putrov, initially found karate more enjoyable, and considered ballet too mainstream: "Everybody danced (at the time)," he said.

But he changed his mind after playing his first stage role, Lukashik, in "The Forest Song" (based on Lesia Ukrainka's famous play) at

more Putrov on page 21

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Five Ukrainian brands for dressing up warmly and stylishly in cold weather

ANNA YAKUTENKO
YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

As winter returns to Kyiv, it's time to dress up warm in heavy coats, sweaters, boots and hats – not usually the kind of clothes that inspire those who have a passion for fashion.

But in fact, fashion lovers can find plenty of trendy Ukrainian-made coats, warm vests, knitted accessories and fluffy sweatshirts on sale nowadays. The Kyiv Post picked out a few fashionable outfits produced by Ukrainian designers that will help people keep warm, and yet looking stylish, during the cold season.

Trempel

The Ukrainian brand Trempel (from the Ukrainian word for clotheshanger), offers large variety of winter quilted vests and bright coats. Trempel was founded only a year ago, but already has a showroom in the city center near Palats Sportu metro station. Most of the brand's coats are made from cashmere and wool, which make them ideal for frosty winter temperatures.

Prices for coats start from around Hr 3,000, with a quilted coat costing around Hr 3,800. Apart from their showroom at 15b Shota Rustaveli St., the brand also has a spot in the Ocean Plaza shopping mall near Lybidska metro station. Customers



A model poses in knitted scarf, gloves and hat by Ukrainian brand Pavlenki Workshop. (pavlenki.com)

can also order individually tailored clothes in the showroom.

Trempel
trempel.wowbuy.in.ua
15b Shota Rustaveli St.
11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Coat – Hr 3,790

Dasti

Dasti is Ukrainian brand of outdoor wear that was founded in January 2015. The most popular item of the brand is its brightly colored parka with a warm wool lining, which costs Hr 1,650-4,260, depending on the

length and design. However, the brand also offers knitted sweatshirts, accessories and novel winter shoes, such as wool-lined sneakers.

The brand's showroom is located at 10 b Raisy Okypnoyi St. on Kyiv's left bank, but customers can also order a parka online at <http://dasti.me>. The brand's website also offers clothing for children, starting at around Hr 1,850 for a parka.

Dasti
www.facebook.com/Dasti.me
Showroom: 10 b Raisy Okypnoyi St.
4th floor
Mon – Fri 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. Sat 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Parka – Hr 3,650

Shapellie

For those looking for unusual hats to go with their coat or sweater, Shapellie is a good option. The Ukrainian brand, founded in 2005, specializes in trendy felt and straw hats. It offers a range of hats in different designs and colors at the Shapellie spot in the Stolychnyi store, at 28 Symona Petliuryi St., or in Vsi Svoi store at 27 Kreshchatyk St. in the heart of Kyiv. Customers also have option of ordering a tailor-made hat.

Prices vary from Hr 1,300 to around Hr 2,400 for a hat, depending on the material and design used. One can also order a hat online at www.shapellie.com.ua/en.

Shapellie
Vsi Svoi store
27 Kreshchatyk St.
10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Hat – Hr 1,300 – 2,400 (price depends on model and material)

Hameleon

Those on the lookout for stylish winter shoes shouldn't miss the Ukrainian brand Hameleon, which makes boots from fur and leather. Hameleon was founded only in 2014, but in a short time has gained popularity among Ukrainian buyers for its unusual bright designs and high-quality materials. The brand now has more than 30,000 followers on social media (www.facebook.com/hameleon.shoes).

The brand's showroom located



Wool-lined boots by the Hameleon shoes brand and atelier. (facebook/hameleon.shoes)

at 69 Antonovycha St., not far from the city center. One can choose a pair of boots that are already in stock, or have them designed to order. Hameleon also has a spot in the Vsi Svoi store on Kreshchatyk. A pair of winter boots costs around Hr 3,000.

Hameleon
facebook.com/pg/hameleon.shoes
Showroom: 69 Volodymyrska St.
4th floor
(Entrance at Home Deco store)
Mon – Fri 12 p.m. – 8 p.m. Sat 11 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Shoes – Hr 3,200

Pavlenki Workshop

Pavlenki Workshop is a brand of knitted accessories and clothes founded by couple Olena and Maksym Pavlenko. The brand makes bright, cozy hats, mittens, long scarves, cardigans, vests and shawls. Prices are a little higher than average, but the entrepreneurs say that's because they only use the highest-quality materials.

The brand has a shop at 50 Bogdana Khmelnytskogo St. in the heart of Kyiv. One can also order accessories via social media (@pavlenki_workshop on Instagram). Prices start from Hr 500 for a hat and Hr 700 for a scarf.

Pavlenki Workshop
www.pavlenki.com
50 Bogdana Khmelnytskogo St.
Mon – Fri 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Hat – Hr 500 ■

Recalling a Ukrainian soccer legend

Lobanovskyi from page 19

Beckenbauer, one of the world's best professional footballers, once said of the Ukrainian coach.

As one of the fathers of modern soccer, who focused on pushing his team to unprecedented levels of physical performance, understanding the geometry of the pitch when constructing plays and planning strategies for victory, Lobanovskyi's style has been forever carved into the memories of top world's coaches.

"Lobanovskyi can be considered one of the greatest football teachers," said the manager of German club Bayern Munich, Italian Carlo Ancelotti. "There's always something to learn from such great teachers."

As a manager, Lobanovskyi led Dynamo Kyiv to victory in the 1975

Cup Winners Cup – the first time a team from the Soviet Union had won a major European trophy. In 1999, again with Dynamo, he reached the semi-finals of the most prestigious European club competition, the Champions' League.

But apart from winning trophies, and recording impressive statistics in soccer history, Lobanovskyi brought up three generations of football players, raising among others stars like Oleh Blokhin, Andriy Shevchenko, Igor Belanov – all holders of the most prestigious individual annual award in European football, the FIFA Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball).

"(Lobanovskyi) is a phenomenon. He could convey through football to people something just so. He could unite people," said Andriy Shevchenko, the current coach of

Ukraine national football team, who's still thankful to Lobanovskyi and his training methods, on which he built his own outstanding career. "I'm indebted to Valeriy Vasilyevich for everything."

Lobanovskyi was inseparable from soccer to the last: preparing a substitution at the end of a match between Dynamo Kyiv and Metalurh Zaporizhzhya in 2002, Lobanovskyi collapsed from a stroke and was taken by ambulance right from the coach's bench. He passed away at the age of 63.

"To be a coach is much more difficult than to be a player," Lobanovskyi said during one of his press conferences. "You control the ball on the pitch, but near the track edge, you have to control people." ■



Footage from "Lobanovskyi Forever," a 92-minute documentary by director Anton Azarov, shows Valeriy Lobanovskyi, the much-loved Dynamo Kyiv coach. Lobanovskyi, a star football player and successful manager, died in 2002 at the age of 63. (Courtesy)



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'Man in motion' Ivan Putrov brings his dance show home

Putrov from page 19

the National Opera, at the age of 10, shortly after starting ballet lessons.

After winning Prix de Lausanne competition in Switzerland in 1996, Putrov was invited by the then director of London's Royal Ballet School, Dame Merle Park, who was a judge at the competition, to study at the famous school.

"I really wanted to work with balletmaster and teacher Herman Zamuel," Putrov said.

Not just a dancer

Apart from having an impressive dancing career, Putrov now produces his own shows. "Men in Motion" is among his biggest.

The ballet show is a retrospective of the development of men's ballet from Post-Romanticism to contemporary dance, and was inspired by prominent 20th century male dancers like Serge Lifar and Vaslav Nijinsky, both of whom were also born in Kyiv.

"At that time it was unusual for male dancers to take the spotlight. Of course, over history we have had King Louis XIV (a ballet enthusiast),

but it was still uncommon," Putrov said.

"But nowadays we cannot imagine ballet without men."

His other projects include "The Most Incredible Thing," for which the pop-duo the Pet Shop Boys wrote the music: "We worked on it for around six years, and sometimes things went rather slowly."

Putrov says all his projects are equally interesting to him, and it is impossible to pick out a role or a show that stands out from the rest.

"I live in the moment. What I'm doing right now is always the most important thing for me," said Putrov.

Work philosophy

Putrov says it is important for all artists to retain a playfulness inside them.

"If you don't have this quality, it is (called) profanity. You come, do your work, and leave - but you actually don't care."

He compares artists to children, who tend to change their mood very fast.

"I think this so-called childishness is a characteristic of all artists, not just

dancers. Our moods change quickly, and we need to control it," he said.

Sometimes this means it is difficult to maintain attention and motivation, Putrov said.

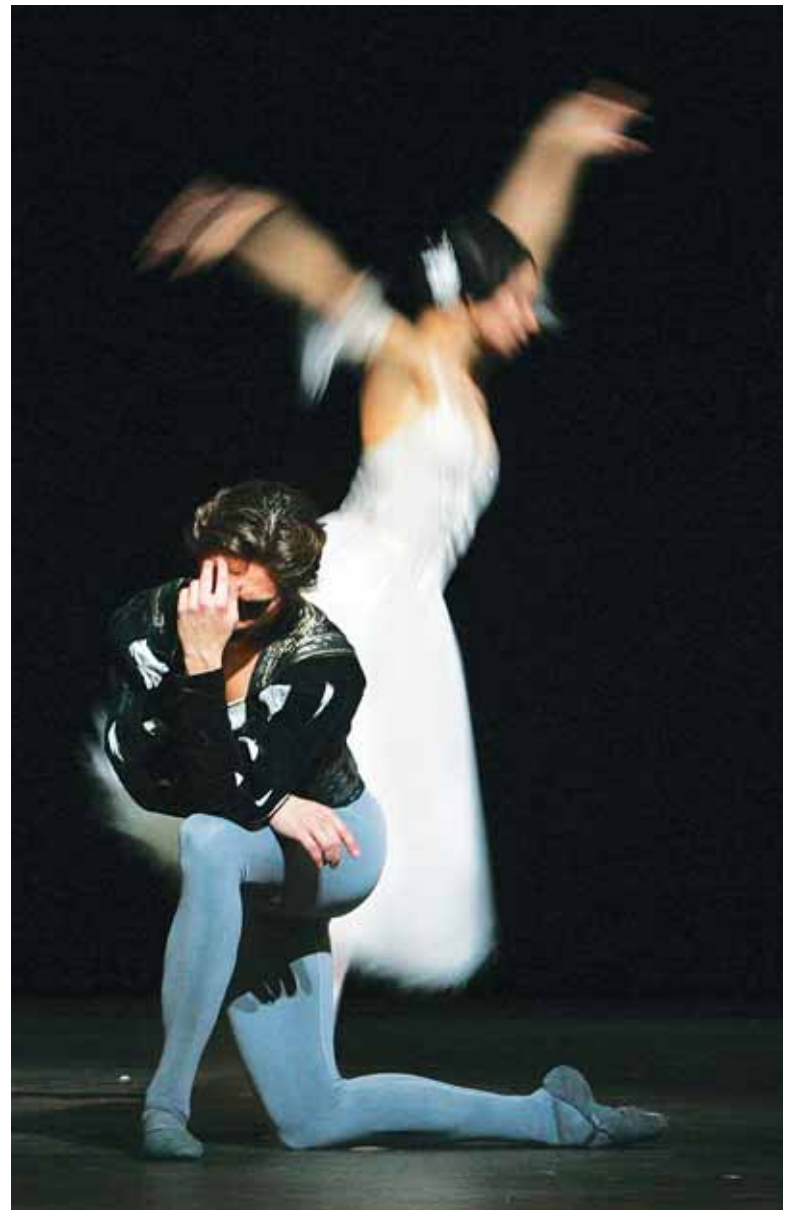
"As with everyone, it still happens. But then I will be at an exhibition, for example, and the art encountered will inspire me to continue working."

When Putrov ends his dancing career ("which might never happen", he jokes), he would like to stay in the world of theater that he was born into. Becoming a producer was a logical next step for the dancer.

"If on the one hand I can hold onto an idea, and with the other hand make it come to life, I am a complete human being, from the creative point of view," he said.

The dancing legend speaks highly of the Ukrainian national ballet, which he considers a big part of the nation's culture.

"Every year two to three new productions come out, and that's a good figure (for an opera theater). Maybe it doesn't cost so much here, but people love to dance here, and they are given the best possible conditions to do so." ■



Roberta Marquez (behind) as Giselle and Ivan Putrov as Count Alrecht perform during a Royal Ballet dress rehearsal of Giselle at The Royal opera House in London, on Jan. 9, 2006. (AFP)

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Agriteam Canada Consulting Ltd., an International consulting company is seeking candidates to fill the following position on International Technical Assistance Project funded by the Government of Canada

Administrative Officer

The closing date for applications is December 16, 2016

Please, submit your CV and Cover letter to vitalinai@agriteam.ca

For more detailed information about applying procedure, please visit our website: <http://edge.in.ua/vacancies.html>



Professionals for Reform Support Mechanism (PRSM)

provides human resource support – from managers to technical experts - to critical reform initiatives undertaken by national governmental agencies. PRSM is currently seeking candidates to fill the following expert positions for the Government of Ukraine:

• For the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine namely Penitentiary System Reform Project Office in the following key components - Probation , Public-private Partnership (PPP), State owned enterprises (SOE)- multiple positions

• For the Project Office for Sectoral Decentralization (POSD): Sector Lead (4 positions) – responsible for defining the scope of sectoral (4 sectors) reform.

For more detailed information about preferred qualifications and skills, indicative duties and responsibilities, as well as applying procedure, please visit web-site: <http://edge.in.ua/vacancies.html>



Development works here.

Chemonics International, an international development consulting firm, implementing USAID's Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative (UCBI) Project, solicits expressions of interest for a short-term **LOCAL RESEARCH CONSULTANT**. The Consultant will be responsible for engaging and maintaining relationships with stakeholders; organizing meetings and events; compiling reports based on stakeholder deliberations.

For qualifications and job description please refer to

<https://www.facebook.com/USAIDUCBI/>

Send electronic submissions to ukrainelocalrecruit@gmail.com

by Friday, December 16, 2016.



Development works here.

Chemonics International Inc., an international development consulting firm, is seeking key personnel for USAID's Ukraine Competitive Energy Markets (U-CEM) project. The purpose of this project is to enhance Ukraine's energy security. The five-year, \$85-90 million program aims to increase energy efficiency and diversify Ukraine's energy mix through improved energy policy and regulation, and by increasing resilience of energy supply.

Chemonics seeks the following:

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PARTY

The Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) will serve the entire length of the contract, as the backup to the Chief of Party. The DCOP must have proven strategic planning, analytical, business reporting, and financial analysis skills.

- Master's degree in business administration, law, engineering, economics, finance policy, or a related subject area required; advanced degree preferred
- At least twenty (20) years of experience on policy and investment issues related to energy
- At least ten (10) years of experience working on large energy projects
- Coordination of complex projects in cooperation with GOU, international donors, IFIs, and local organizations, and established high-level contacts with such stakeholders
- Experience in development of new financial and investment mechanisms
- Fluency in Ukrainian and/or Russian required; fluency in English required

ENERGY MARKET AND INSTITUTIONAL/REGULATORY ADVISOR

The Energy Market and Institutional/Regulatory Advisor will focus on evaluating the effectiveness of existing energy laws and market structures in meeting national/regional goals, developing options for improving the monitoring and enforcement of energy policies, examining the impacts of energy market changes on different stakeholders, and developing workable plans to reform energy markets and assisting institutions in the implementation of these reforms.

- Master's degree in energy/environmental policy, engineering, economics, or a related subject area required
- At least fifteen (15) years of work experience in transition countries on energy sector reform, restructuring, privatization, and market development issues, with at least five (5) years in Eastern Europe
- At least five (5) years of experience working on donor-funded projects; experience with USAID preferred
- Experience developing workable plans to reform energy markets through changes in institutions, laws, regulations, rules, and public involvement
- Fluency in Ukrainian and/or Russian required; fluency in English required

SENIOR ENERGY ECONOMIST

The Senior Energy Economist will serve as the team's expert in the economics of competitive gas and electricity markets, revenue requirement of regulated market participants, renewable energy, and least cost emission reduction strategies.

- Master's degree in business, economics, finance, energy, or a related subject area required
- At least fifteen (15) years of work experience with energy sector economic analyses, with at least five (5) years focused on climate change and emission reduction issues
- Experience with formulation of national plans, energy planning models for conducting least-cost analyses, and financial schemes for energy projects
- Minimum five (5) years of experience in Eastern Europe
- Fluency in Ukrainian and/or Russian required; fluency in English required

Application Instructions: Please send a CV and a brief cover letter in English in the email body to ukraineCEMrecruit@chemonics.com. Please submit one application per candidate, and include the name of the position in the subject line. Candidates will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. No telephone inquiries, please. Finalists will be contacted.

Application Deadline: January 6, 2017 at 6 P.M. Kyiv Time

Chemonics is an equal opportunity/ Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate in its selection and employment practices. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability, or protected veteran status, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factors.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Ukraine Announcement # 14

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Administrative Assistant for the Office of Democracy and Governance (ODG) provides administrative support to the Office Director and the ODG team, including: timekeeping; correspondence in English and Ukrainian; scheduling; arranging meetings; visitor access; local, regional and international travel arrangements; translation; office procurements and work orders; VAT reimbursement processing; mail handling; creating and managing ODG administrative records (leave, travel, contact databases, event calendars, etc.); voucher preparation; and other administrative tasks as assigned. The Administrative Assistant will also backstop the ODG Program Management Assistant by providing limited programmatic support to the office, including preparing documents for award requisitions or modifications; program procurement tracking; program reports; and program budgeting. The Office Director or his/her designee will supervise the Administrative Assistant.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

A. **Education:** A University Degree or host country equivalent is required. An advanced degree or technical study in project management and administrative disciplines is highly desired.

B. **Prior Work Experience:** At least three years of progressively responsible administrative experience related to development issues and projects in Ukraine is required. At least one year of relevant project management assistance experience is strongly desired.

C. **Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent) in English, Ukrainian and Russian is required. In addition, the incumbent must be fluent with the technical terminology used by ODG.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: December 21, 2016 at 6:00 PM Kyiv time, by e-mail attachment only to Human Resources Office at KyivHR@state.gov; Include vacancy number and position title in the subject line of your email. The full package includes: CV, cover letter and DS-174

(see the full version of this Announcement at <https://www.usaid.gov/ukraine/work-with-us/careers/documents/1863/usaidukraine-job-opportunity-administrative-assistant>)



Development works here.

Chemonics International Inc., an international development consulting firm, is seeking senior experts in energy policy and regulation, energy markets, and energy efficiency and diversification for USAID's Ukraine Competitive Energy Markets (U-CEM) project. The purpose of this project is to enhance Ukraine's energy security. The five-year, \$85-90 million program aims to increase energy efficiency and diversify Ukraine's energy mix through improved energy policy and regulation, and by increasing resilience of energy supply.

Chemonics is seeking the following senior expert positions:

- **SENIOR ENERGY MODELING SPECIALIST** with knowledge of economic analysis and optimization
- **SENIOR GAS INDUSTRY SPECIALIST** with knowledge of the international gas market and technologies (European and Middle East preferred)
- **ENERGY TARIFF SPECIALIST** with experience in international electricity tariff methodology development and calculation
- **ELECTRICITY MARKET DESIGN SPECIALIST** with knowledge of competitive electricity markets including power exchanges, balancing and spot markets, ancillary services markets
- **RENEWABLE FINANCING SPECIALIST** with experience in energy investments, including renewable energy
- **SENIOR ENERGY ATTORNEY** with experience in international and EU energy legal and regulatory experience
- **RENEWABLE ENERGY ENGINEER** with experience in technical analysis and design of renewable projects
- **ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST** with experience in one or more of the following: Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS); and renewable energy development

Candidate Requirements:

- Master's degree in energy, engineering, public policy, law, business, finance, economics, or a related subject area required; advanced degree preferred
- At least ten (10) years of work experience in the energy sector (public and/or private sector)
- At least five (5) years of experience working on donor-funded projects; experience with USAID preferred
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Fluency in Ukrainian and/or Russian required; fluency in English required

Application Instructions: Please send a CV and a brief cover letter in English in the email body to ukraineCEMrecruit@chemonics.com. Please submit one application per candidate, and include the name of the position in the subject line. Candidates will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. No telephone inquiries, please. Finalists will be contacted.

Application Deadline: January 6, 2017 at 6 P.M. Kyiv Time

Chemonics is an equal opportunity/ Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate in its selection and employment practices. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability, or protected veteran status, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factors.

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Global Communities

is seeking qualified professionals to fill the following long-term positions for the five-year USAID-funded

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• **Administrative and Finance Manager in Dnipro**

• **Administrative and Finance Manager in Ternopil**

The Administrative and Finance Manager will assist with the day to day administrative, logistics and finance related functions at the DOBRE Regional Program office in Dnipro or Ternopil.

Full job description is available at:

<https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/553043>

• **Accountant**

The Accountant will assist with the day to day accounting and finance related functions at the DOBRE Program office in Kyiv.

Full job description is available at:

<https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/accountant-2>

Candidates are asked to submit resumes and cover letters in English to: UkraineHR@globalcommunities.org indicating the position title in the subject line.

Only applicants selected for interviews will be contacted. No telephone inquiries will be accepted.



United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Ukraine

**Solicitation for U.S. Personal Services Contractor
Special Assistant, Director's Office, GS-12**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

USAID is recruiting an American citizen, Resident Hire, eligible to work in Ukraine for a two year contract (with an option for renewal). This position is located in the Director's Office of the USAID Regional Mission to Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus (UMB). The USAID/UMB Special Assistant serves as the principal assistant to the Mission Director (MD) and the Deputy Mission Director (DMD) of USAID/UMB, working in close collaboration with the two Secretaries within the USAID/UMB Director's Office. The incumbent is the focal point for the flow of paper and assignments to and from the USAID/UMB Director's Office and assists its staff in a variety of ways, such as managing key priorities and activities of the Director's Office; receiving actions from the U.S. Embassy Front Office and assigning them to USAID Mission staff in consultation with the MD, DMD and Secretaries; tracking actions and ensuring that they are completed by the due date; drafting communications in English; and performing other duties as assigned by the MD or DMD.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Education: A bachelor's degree in liberal arts, business, management, or a related field is required.

Work Experience: A minimum of five years of general experience as a senior level administrative assistant, or managing and editing of complex communications and correspondence is required. The incumbent must have working experience in a position with responsibilities similar to the duties outlined. Prior management knowledge and/or experience, either within the USG or with an international NGO is required, particularly in the area of program or administrative management.

Post Entry Training: Training in relevant USAID procedures and regulations, such as Contracting/ Agreement Officer's Representative (COR/AOR), USAID administrative compliance requirements, or other areas.

Language Proficiency: The candidate must be fluent in both spoken and written English and be able to effectively liaise with the Mission's Development Outreach Communications (DOC) team to ensure the production of high-quality speeches, talking points, scene-setters, and other documentation for the Director's Office. Experience proofreading and editing complex technical information is highly desirable.

Job Knowledge: Basic knowledge of the regional political, economic, and cultural environment is required, as the incumbent will have to interact with a range of partners including local government, development and civil society organizations in the implementation of UMB programs. Must be completely computer literate, with excellent knowledge of Microsoft programs, including Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Access.

Skills and Abilities: Planning is required on a daily basis for routine functions, but needs to plan at least three to six months in advance for certain tasks. The position must thoroughly plan USAID/UMB's administrative support for all team activities and must coordinate with other Offices within the U.S. Embassy and with USAID/UMB's Implementing Partner teams. Must be innovative on approaches to supporting the portfolio with information and resources. The incumbent must be able to prioritize and complete tasks quickly and efficiently; must be highly motivated, dedicated, a self-starter, and able to work in and stay calm in challenging and stressful environments; excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to work in a team setting; and, ability to easily interact with tact and diplomacy when interacting with high level officials and USAID partner organizations.

The full version of this Announcement is accessible at
<https://www.usaid.gov/ukraine/work-with-us/careers>
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: December 20, 2016 at 6:00 PM Kyiv time,
by e-mail attachment only to Human Resources Office at
kyivvacancies@usaid.gov
Include vacancy number and position title in the subject line of your email.



Deputy Program Manager

**IFC Agribusiness Advisory Services
Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Services (MAS) Department**

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector development in emerging markets. For more information please visit our website: www.ifc.org

As part of its MAS agribusiness advisory program in Ukraine, IFC is seeking to hire a full time Deputy Program Manager who will support the MAS EMENA Regional Program Manager on managing and supervising the implementation of advisory projects with IFC clients in Ukraine which include the following:

- Hiring external expertise, deploying internal and/or external expertise and managing them in order to ensure the most effective and efficient implementation of the projects' programs;
- Managing relationships with project stakeholders, clients, partners, beneficiaries, etc.;
- Ensuring the delivery of advisory services to IFC clients in accordance with the agreed upon scope of work, timelines and deliverables;
- Ensuring the delivery of results in accordance with approved project business objectives and M&E targets;
- Preparing project supervision and donor reports, including M&E reports and the required back-up data which confirms the reported results and achievements;
- Ensuring coordination with other IFC teams: advisory colleagues, investment officers, E&S specialists, country officers, IBRD colleagues and others.
- Business development for MAS Advisory, which includes: identifying clients and their needs, preparing pitches, conducting negotiations, and concluding agreements;
- Developing ideas and concepts for joint advisory and investment products for existing and / or potential clients;
- Support on AS products development;
- Contribute substantively to knowledge management.

Qualification Requirements:

- Excellent English skills: speaking, reading, and writing (essential);
- Strong skills in Word, Power Point, and Excel are required.
- A Master's degree or the equivalent in professional qualification in agribusiness;
- A minimum of 15 years of private sector operational experience in agribusiness;
- A proven track record in business development and in nurturing client relationships;
- A demonstrated ability to understand what makes businesses succeed, to develop and to successfully implement innovative solutions in order to resolve challenging issues;
- A proven track record in working in diverse teams which include colleagues, consultants and client representatives in order to achieve common business goals and objectives;
- Sound business judgment, a demonstrated ability to deliver results under stressful conditions and in a stressful environment;
- Commitment to the World Bank Group and IFC's mission, strategies and values.

Interested candidates may review the complete job description and apply on-line at http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/Careers_Ext_Content/IFC_External_Corporate_Site/IFC+Careers
Access the Current Opportunities, Selection # 162418.
Closing date for submissions is January 3, 2017.



USAID/OTI Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative is looking for qualified individual to fill the position of **COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIC PLANNING SPECIALIST**. Chemonics International, an international development consulting firm, implementing USAID's Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative (UCBI) Project, solicits expressions of interest for a Communications Strategic Planning Specialist to work with the Luhansk Oblast Administration. UCBI will assist the Luhansk Oblast Administration in improving its external communication policy through a strategic planning process.

Send electronic submissions to ukrainelocalrecruit@gmail.com no later than December 22, 2016.

Interested prospective applicants are encouraged to visit UCBI's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/USAIDUCBI/>

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Analyst

IFC is looking to recruit a short-term expert (STC) work with the Project Manager to conduct necessary research on agriculture insurance and related requirements in the preparation of desk studies, presentations, data mining and data manipulations, speeches, and promotional materials as required.

The duties of the Analyst will include: undertake researching and analysis issues, gathering statistics, and contributing to studies as required; facilitate the preparation of presentations and training materials; search for specific data, combine, organize and analyze big data; assist with actuarial sound calculations under coordination of lead specialists; support the public relations team and with the coordination of events and materials as required; and perform other duties as requested by the Project Manager.

Please follow the link to get more details on the assignment and apply for the position (Selection #: 1232915) <https://wbgeconsult2.worldbank.org/wbgec/index.html>

Applicants must submit their CV and Cover Letter indicating their experience in one or more of the six key areas listed above.

Deadline for applications – December 19, 2016.

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Performance by José Carreras

Dec. 17

(AFP)



The renowned Spanish opera singer Josep Maria Carreras i Coll, better known as José Carreras, comes to Kyiv in December as a part of his world tour. The 70-year-old tenor first became famous for his performances in operas by Verdi and Puccini.
José Carreras (opera). Dec. 17. 7 p.m. Ukraine Palace (103 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Hr 650 – 8,950

Folk Dance

Dec. 9

One of the most prominent folk dance groups, the Virsky Ensemble, will perform traditional Ukrainian dances on Dec. 9 in the Freedom Event Hall.
Virsky Folk Dance Ensemble. 7 p.m. Freedom Event Hall (134 Kyrylivska St.) Hr 250- 500



(virsky.kiev.ua)

Dec. 17-18

#BCICBOI



Vsi Svoi. Presents

The Christmas market at 12 Desyatynna St. offers a large variety of presents for one's nearest and dearest: from clothing, jewelry, textiles and accessories for home decor, to books, toys, cosmetics and perfumes. Delicious gift options for those with a

sweet tooth are also part of the bargain.

Vsi Svoi. Presents. Dec. 17 -18. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. 12 Desyatynna St. Free

Jazzy Funky Dorn (pop)

Dec. 17

One of the most popular Ukrainian pop musicians, Ivan Dorn, is gearing up for his latest performance, at the International Exhibition Center on Kyiv's left bank. This will be Dorn's first concert since returning to Ukraine from the United States, where the singer was working on his new album. Tickets for the concert in Kyiv can be bought online at karabas.ua.
Ivan Dorn (pop). Dec. 17. 7 p.m. International Exhibition Center (15 Brovarsky Ave.) Hr 500 – 1500



(volodymyr petrov)

Compiled by Anna Yakutenko

Divas in Kyiv

Spend the evening where Glamour Conjures a Musical Nostalgia With Surprises

Madonna, Sam Brown, Toni Braxton, Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, Céline Dion, Lara Fabian, Diana Ross, Sara Brightman, Barbara Streisand are famous for their iconic and memorable theme tunes. Each one is a musical gem filled with seduction, softness, and sentiment.

Hosted by DJ Pasha and performed by Ukraine's very own Diva, Kamaliya, with other young talents, this concert will be an emotional journey through forty years of great tunes by these and other Divas.

In addition, you will be pampered by non-stop drinks, food and other surprises.

The concert is part of the 3rd St. Nicholas Charity Night organised by Kamaliya Foundation in partnership with Kyiv Lions Club for the benefit of needy Ukrainian Children and supported by KyivPost, ISTIL Group, PS Media & YUNA Music Awards.

Special Guest:
Francis Goya

Monday Dec. 12,
 7 p.m.

NIVKI HALL
 84 Prospekt Pobedi
 Kyiv

