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# Kyiv Post

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# BANNED



### The US has sanctioned Rudy Giuliani allies – 7 Ukrainians & 4 organizations – for interfering in the Nov. 3 presidential election.



Coverage inside:  
• Anders Aslund's column, page 5;  
• Sergii Leshchenko's column, page 12;  
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From top left: lawmaker Oleksandr Dubinsky, lawmaker Andrii Derkach, ex-prosecutor Kostyantyn Kulyk, fugitive ex-lawmaker Oleksandr Onyshchenko, ex-diplomat Andriy Telizhenko. They are the most high-profile among the seven Ukrainians who on Jan. 11 were sanctioned by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control for their coordinated attempt to interfere in the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Led by Derkach, whom the U.S. government believes to be a Russian agent, the group of current and former government officials publicized fake allegations against then-presidential candidate Joe Biden, which were then promoted in the U.S. by allies of President Donald Trump, including the president's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani. The sanctioned individuals are banned from entering the U.S., any assets they have in the U.S. will be frozen, and American citizens are banned from doing business with them.



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Iryna Venediktova has been the general prosecutor of Ukraine since March 2020. (Courtesy photo)

## International legal instruments allow solving worldwide crimes



Iryna Venediktova

The international fight against crime is a priority area for the Prosecutor General's Office activities. Our institution is the central body for extradition, international legal assistance and takeover of criminal proceedings, as well as it is responsible for liaising with the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation.

Last year 13 Eurojust coordination meetings were held with the participation of representatives of Ukrainian law enforcement bodies to exchange information in the investigations which are simultaneously conducted in several countries.

### Help from Germany

Within the framework of our cooperation with Eurojust, we obtained information from colleagues from the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office in the German city of Bamberg about the exposure of a large-

scale fraudulent scheme of which Ukrainians are suspected, and immediately initiated our own investigation. The estimated monthly turnover of such criminal activity ranged from 8 to 10 million euros. Most of the victims are citizens of Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

According to the German Prosecutor's Office, the scheme of appropriation of funds has been in effect since 2017. The organized group of citizens of Ukraine and other countries carried it out under the guise of attracting investment through specially created web resources. Such websites allegedly allowed their users to earn money by buying and selling various assets:

bank metals, foreign currency, cryptocurrency, securities, etc. However, investors were misled – with the help of the software interface of the sites, purchase and sale agreements were simulated, and the return on

invested funds fictitiously increased 100 times and more.

When depositors applied for cash withdrawals, they received calls from employees of specially created call centers, as representatives of trading platforms, and demanded to provide an additional 15% of the amount of received funds as a service fee and a charge for cashing out. After payment, investors' accounts were blocked, and the funds placed on them were appropriated by the organizers of the fraudulent scheme.

The examination found that the funds of investors paid through such sites were actually credited to the accounts of a number of companies controlled by the organizers in the United Kingdom, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia and other countries with their subsequent legalization.

European law enforcement bodies searched residential premises and call centers in Serbia and Bulgaria, during which nine persons involved in this activity were detained.

Ukrainian law enforcement has now continued the investigation of German colleagues. We have received the necessary materials in the framework of the established international cooperation between the Prosecutor General's Office, the Strategic Investigations Department of the National Police, Eurojust and Europol, and have already carried out a number of important investigative actions.

At this stage, the Ukrainian investigation has established that the citizens of Ukraine, who were involved in the organization of the scheme and actually managed the work of the sites, withdrew funds through controlled business entities and legalized them on the territory of Ukraine.

During searches at the places of residence and criminal activities of the persons concerned, cash equivalent to \$1 million, draft records, documentation and other evidence were found and seized.

Luxury cars, apartments, a house and real estate with an estimated value of about 50 million euros were seized within the criminal proceedings.

The Ukrainian investigation will actively cooperate with the competent authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany in the framework of international legal assistance in order to bring all those involved to justice as soon as possible.

All analogous requests from the competent authorities of foreign countries addressed to the Ukrainian law enforcement and the latter's international requests addressed to foreign colleagues go through the Prosecutor General's Office. Those are requests for procedural actions, interviews of persons, seizure of documents, etc.

### Requests from 47 nations

During 2020, more than 2,200 of such requests for legal assistance from 47 countries and more than 100 requests for the takeover of criminal proceedings were processed. The largest number of such documents was received from Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Austria.

Another 500 requests for legal assistance and 10 requests for the takeover of criminal proceedings, which were sent by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies to 58 countries, were also considered. The majority of them were sent to Latvia,



# Yuriy Vitrenko has big plans to shake up nation's energy sector

By Brian Bonner  
bonner@kyivpost.com

Unless President Volodymyr Zelensky finds another 40 votes in parliament, Yuriy Vitrenko will be finished as acting energy minister on Jan. 21 — exactly one month after he started, the new legal limit imposed to prevent “permanent” acting ministers who serve for years.

As it is, acting ministers have no clout. They can legally give no orders nor make appointments. And, counting the winter holidays and a 17-day COVID-19 lockdown ending Jan. 25, most of Vitrenko's acting tenure will have been spent while Ukrainians were celebrating or staying home to curb the coronavirus. The Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, meanwhile won't meet until Jan. 26.

Vitrenko's appointment won only 186 votes in parliament on Dec. 17. Analyses of the votes show that lawmakers with ties to the three oligarchs who control Ukraine's energy sector — Rinat Akhmetov, Dmytro Firtash and Ihor Kolomoisky — weren't in favor of installing the reformist firebrand.

Moreover, Vitrenko, 44, is seen as a future president or prime minister — political ambitions that he disavows. But nonetheless, the talk may have threatened Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal and Verkhovna Rada Speaker Dmytro Razumkov, who were unwilling or unable to secure the required 226-member majority in parliament.

In the seven years since the EuroMaidan Revolution sent Kremlin-backed Viktor Yanukovich fleeing to Russia, Ukraine has had just as many energy ministers or acting energy ministers. In a sector where changes in policy can take years to bear fruit, the revolving door has predictably led to intractable problems.

There are two reasons for this frequency, Vitrenko said:

Oligarchs who don't want to surrender their economic privileges and thus need pliant energy ministers, and, secondly, ministers full of hubris who think they are experts on all energy matters and can manually control the sector.

He says he fits neither category.

“To some extent, my appointment is like a political experiment,” he said of whether he will get the job on a permanent basis. “It will be a big test for parliament and people in power if they're serious to do real reforms.”

## National security

People don't need to worry about Vitrenko, who has become a millionaire in private business and during his six-year tenure as a top executive of Naftogaz, the state-owned oil and



Yuriy Vitrenko, acting Ukrainian energy minister, speaks with the Kyiv Post on Dec. 25, 2020 in newspaper office in Kyiv.

gas company with more than \$10 billion in annual revenue. In 2019, the company said it paid more than \$4 billion in taxes and dividends.

But Ukraine and its friends abroad do need to worry about the future of Ukraine's dysfunctional and outdated energy sector, which is antithetical in many ways to competitive market principles and wise government regulation.

Without energy independence and security, Ukraine “will never have national security,” Vitrenko

said of his guiding philosophy. As long as he serves the public, Vitrenko — a married father of three children who has a home in Munich, Germany — pledges to speak out about what he thinks is wrong and how to make it right.

In an extensive Christmas Day interview with the Kyiv Post, Vitrenko outlined his prescription for the sector, from nuclear power to the energy transmission grid, from the rise of renewable energy to the future of oil and natural gas.

Here are some interview highlights:

## Why him?

After a year in which many pro-Western reformers fled or were driven from high posts in the Zelensky administration, the Vitrenko appointment stood out as an oddity.

His reformist credentials in post-revolution Naftogaz are indisputable: The company went from losing a half-billion dollars monthly to consistent profitability while sharply reducing Ukraine's depen-

dence on Russian natural gas supplies and diversifying sources.

Vitrenko led the charge to sue Kremlin-controlled Gazprom in the Stockholm arbitration court, leading to a \$3 billion victory for Ukraine.

He continued to push for Ukraine to take Russia to court for its theft of Crimean assets and abuse of competition rules. He has, much less successfully, also pushed for legal action against RosUkrEnergo — a gas trading intermediary jointly owned by Gazprom and Firtash seen as costing Ukrainians billions of dollars for the sole purpose of enriching private insiders.

Moreover, while serving as one of Naftogaz's top strategists, Vitrenko also won an agreement from Kolomoisky in which the tainted billionaire oligarch gave up his right to appoint the CEO of Ukrnafta. Despite Naftogaz's majority stake, minority shareholder Kolomoisky — under a privilege put in place while Yulia Tymoshenko was prime minister more than a decade ago — effectively controlled the state oil company to the detriment of the nation.

However, after a Naftogaz supervisory board switched sides, Ukrnafta stayed with the Kolomoisky-favored CEO, who remains on the job. After confronting his erstwhile ally, Naftogaz CEO Andriy Kobolyev over the issue, Vitrenko said he was ousted from the company in May. And it's just as well. “I cannot work in a company and pretend I am a reformer when one of our major subsidiaries is controlled by a minority shareholder.”

Vitrenko's acumen for complicated financial transactions also led to the settlement of a longstanding dispute over debts among Naftogaz, Ukrnafta and Ukrenergo, the state electrical grid operator. Out of the debt swap, Naftogaz emerged with a \$1.2 billion payment that could mean the difference between profit

and loss for the company in 2020, he said. And to top it off, he helped in 2019 to secure a five-year natural gas transit agreement from the Kremlin that pays Ukraine at least \$7.2 billion over the course of the contract — irrespective of whether the stalled Russian-German Nord Stream 2 pipeline goes online.

Of course, he didn't accomplish everything alone. But his ability to bring much-needed revenue to the state, and to solve crises — “put out fires,” as he says — is the chief reason he believes that Zelensky persuaded him to take the job. The pitch came by phone and on a walk through the woods of Feofania state hospital while the president was recovering

from COVID-19 in November.

“I'm one of the few if not the only one who really brought a lot of money to the country and current people in government in a big, transparent, civilized way,” Vitrenko said.

## Market cures

Vitrenko's simple strategy: Eliminate oligarch preferences and other distortions preventing the establishment of a free and competitive market. It is, of course, easier said than done.

“Every oligarch wants some preferences for himself,” Vitrenko said. “But sometimes they understand it's not sustainable. I hope some oligarchs are in favor of a level playing field and proper integration in the Western world. We have to test this theory. It's a big question if our oligarchs can survive in a civilized, more open society.”

He got a signal that at least one oligarch, billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, is willing to change. His DTEK company, the largest private energy producer in the nation, has pledged to phase out fossil fuels and become carbon neutral by 2040. While hopeful, Vitrenko said, “if their plan is to keep preferential treatment for their assets until 2040, it's not a good way for the country.”

Vitrenko also said that consumers need to pay market prices for their energy. Especially in electricity but also historically in natural gas, Ukrainian consumers have had subsidized rates. More than any government-financed energy efficiency programs to modernize Ukraine's aging infrastructure, Vitrenko said that simply charging market prices leads to the greatest successes in reducing consumption and improving energy efficiency.

He strongly believes in Ukraine's

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## ON THE MOVE

Advertisement



Ruslan Furtas

Horizon Capital is pleased to announce that Ruslan Furtas was promoted to the position of Principal effective January 1, 2021.

Ruslan joined Horizon Capital as a Financial Analyst in March 2012 and was promoted to Investment Director in October 2013. Over the years, he has demonstrated the ability to proactively shape the value creation agenda, including on NBD and portfolio work, executing transactions and working alongside founders and management of portfolio companies to help build high-

performing teams, financial function improvement, growth projects, operational improvements and turnarounds, as well as introducing strong corporate governance standards.

Before Horizon Capital, Ruslan worked as a consultant for Ernst & Young, predominantly in Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan, where he focused on manufacturing and retail.

Ruslan is a Muskie Fellow and holds an MBA from New Mexico State University. He also holds a Master's degree with distinction in International Business from Lviv Polytechnic National University. Ruslan is President and co-founder of Muskie Club Ukraine alumni association and co-founder of Professional Government Initiative, to promote professionals serving in government.





EDITORIALS

# Unconstitutional court

It's hard enough to roll the boulder of reform up the mountain of corruption. When 18 untouchable judges can at any point push the boulder back down, forcing you to start from the beginning, it becomes impossible.

And untouchable really is the word. Recently, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine issued a statement that it's inadmissible for authorities to suspend its judges, who are protected by the Constitution. If only the Constitution were protected from them.

The court and its judges have faced harsh public criticism since Oct. 27, when they effectively destroyed Ukraine's entire asset declaration system for state officials, eliminating a crucial pillar of the country's anti-corruption infrastructure.

President Volodymyr Zelensky has tried numerous ways to rein them in. On Dec. 29, he suspended the Constitutional Court chief, Oleksandr Tupytsky for two months, days after the judge was charged with bribing a witness over a decade ago.

But this hardly solves Ukraine's constitutional crisis and only prolongs the absurd standoff between the court and the president.

Meanwhile, Tupytsky just brushed it off while frolicking in a luxury villa in the Dubai sun. He appealed to judicial independence.

Although the president does not appear to have constitutional powers to suspend Tupytsky, the court's behavior has nothing to do with judicial independence. The Constitutional Court, a corrupt and lawless body, is just using this principle as an excuse to protect its lawlessness.

In any civilized state, the Constitutional Court should have immediately reacted to the charges against Tupytsky by suspending or firing him. Instead, the court is discrediting itself even more and undermining the remnants of any public trust in itself.

While Ukraine's Western partners, including the Venice Commission, said that the court needs gradual reforms, they came out against its disbandment, which was proposed by Zelensky in October.

The disbandment bill is dubious from the standpoint of constitutional law, and Ukraine's Western partners have opposed it. However, the court has become such an atrocity that gradual measures are not enough.

But what, then, can the Ukrainian government do?

One way forward would be to prosecute Tupytsky and other judges to the fullest extent of the law. Besides allegedly bribing a witness, the head judge has a whole lot of other dirty laundry in his closet. This includes land he acquired in Russian-annexed Crimea in 2018 without showing it in his asset declaration.

Convicting the corrupt judges, if their guilt is proven, would be the right remedy. But Ukraine doesn't have the best track record with holding corrupt officials responsible and its other courts are just as unreliable at delivering justice.

# Who's right?

The mantra of the free market has often been repeated as a remedy for all that ails Ukraine. But how can there be a free market if there is no competition, only a monopoly player?

Such appears to be the case in the dispute over President Volodymyr Zelensky's decision to regulate the price that consumers will pay for natural gas. He did so at the behest of acting energy minister Yuriy Vitrenko, who in a Christmas Day interview with the Kyiv Post assured that he's committed to the market.

But, Vitrenko said, there's no market in the retail gas trade. An estimated 70% of that trade is controlled by exiled oligarch Dmytro Firtash, whose network of regional gas companies already stiffed state-owned Naftogaz for \$1 billion in payments for natural gas. Vitrenko told the Kyiv Post that Firtash is pocketing excessive profits that shot up at least 50% because of ill-advised deregulation. When there is no competition in a sector, the only two wise policy choices are: creating competition by busting up the monopoly or government regulation of price.

The president said the prices will be cut by 30%, to a below-market level.

The regulatory approach drew criticism from two Ukraine watchers whom we greatly respect. Anders Aslund and Timothy Ash condemned the move as an affront to the free market and a boon to oligarchs and other industrial barons who need lots of cheap gas. A better approach, was pointed out, is unregulated prices with targeted government subsidies to help out the poorest citizens.

Aslund tweeted: "This would be a big & unjustified step away from a gas market. It will inevitably recreate corrupt arbitration opportunities. Stop it! (International Monetary Fund)"

Ash wrote: "I think Ukraine's old corrupt elites are once again using the gas price card to scupper the IMF program. Idiotic move and a huge step back. Just imagine all the pain over the past 5-6 years in moving to market-based energy pricing and then this reversal. Why should the whole population benefit from low energy prices and not those just really in need through a targeted approach? Ukraine simply cannot afford to be subsidizing oligarchs' energy bills. I cannot see the IMF buying this."

Vitrenko responded: "It is difficult to be a contrarian. But I am in discussion with the IMF and hope they will agree that market liberalization should benefit people, not Firtash companies, as dominant suppliers."

Vitrenko seems to have the stronger argument. It remains mind-boggling that Ukraine allows Firtash to have so much power when U.S. criminal charges accusing him of bribery (allegations that he denies) would appear to open up big opportunities for law enforcement in Ukraine to investigate his vast business empire of chemical, fertilizer, natural gas and media holdings.

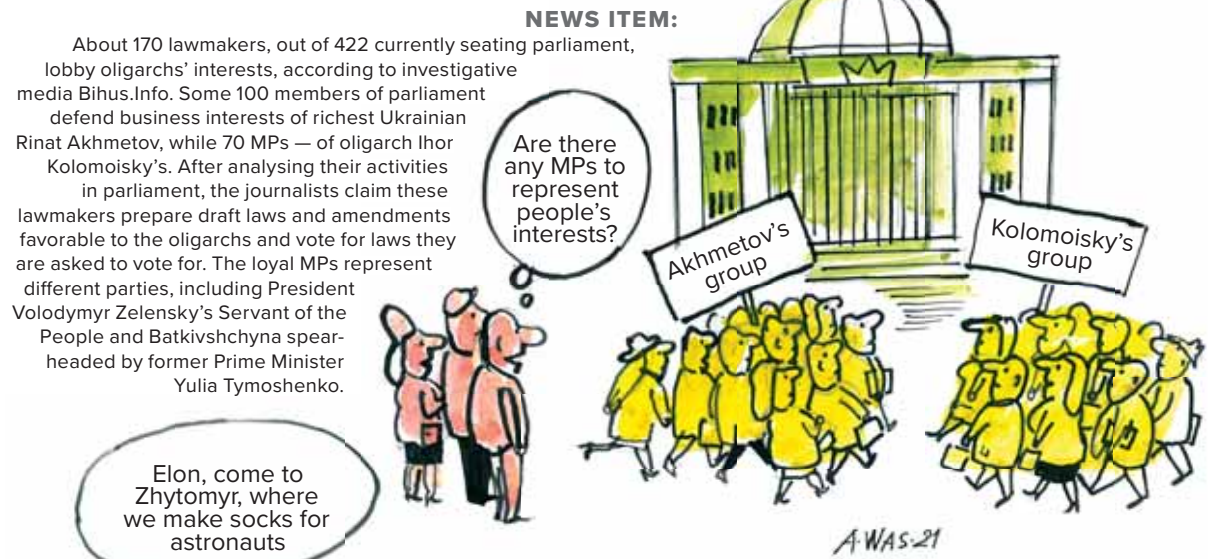
In the Kyiv Post interview, Vitrenko also noted that Ukrainian authorities are not making any attempt to sue RosUkrEnergo, the Kremlin & Firtash company that had a stranglehold over Ukraine's natural gas supplies dating back to the Leonid Kuchma era.

What it all adds up to, in our view, is the untouchable status of Ukraine's oligarchy at the expense of the nation's economic interests.



NEWS ITEM:

Amid the global coronavirus pandemic, Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi invited some 20 people to his home to celebrate Christmas and sing carols. In an interview to news website Hromadske, Sadovyi said singing carols improves people's immunity. Christmas atmosphere and good mood "has a good effect on the immune system, makes it much stronger — and COVID-19 just runs away," Sadovyi said.



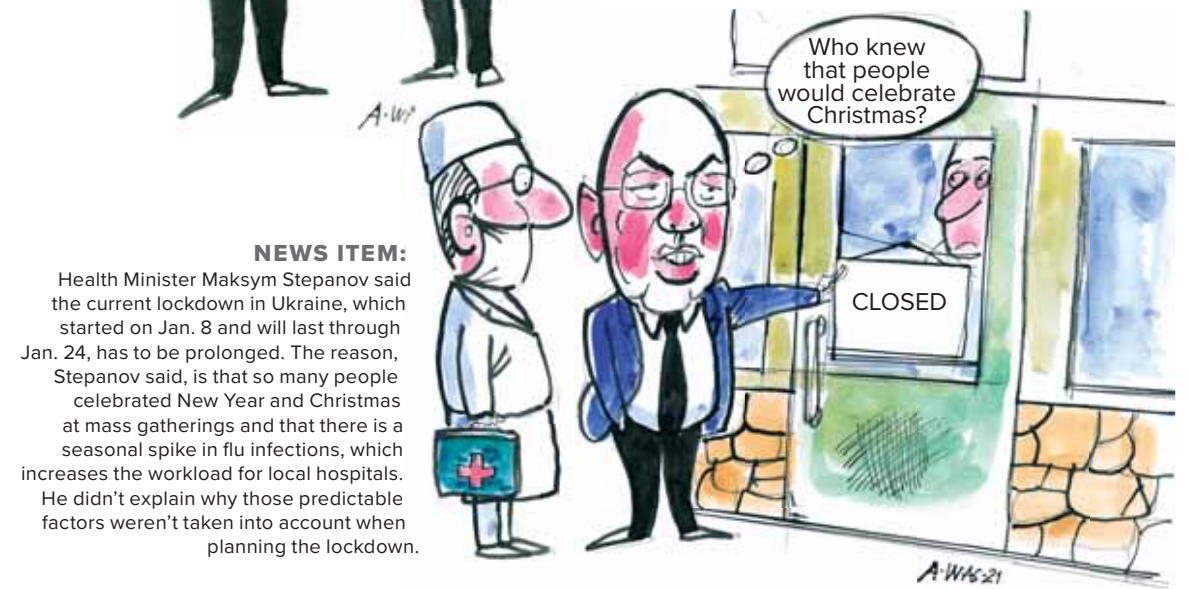
NEWS ITEM:

About 170 lawmakers, out of 422 currently seating parliament, lobby oligarchs' interests, according to investigative media Bihus.Info. Some 100 members of parliament defend business interests of richest Ukrainian Rinat Akhmetov, while 70 MPs — of oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky's. After analysing their activities in parliament, the journalists claim these lawmakers prepare draft laws and amendments favorable to the oligarchs and vote for laws they are asked to vote for. The loyal MPs represent different parties, including President Volodymyr Zelensky's Servant of the People and Batkivshchyna spear-headed by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.



NEWS ITEM:

President Volodymyr Zelensky has invited U.S. entrepreneur Elon Musk, founder of aerospace company SpaceX, to Ukraine. On Twitter, Zelensky offered Musk to come to Zhytomyr, a city 140 kilometers west of Kyiv, known for being a birthplace of Soviet rocket engineer and spacecraft designer Serhii Korolyev, and visit a museum dedicated to astronautics. Zelensky addressed Musk after the U.S. businessman praised Korolyev's legacy on Twitter and said that he spoke with the family of the engineer. "He's one of the very best," Musk wrote. Meanwhile, in today's Ukraine, Zhytomyr is famous for producing socks.



NEWS ITEM:

Health Minister Maksym Stepanov said the current lockdown in Ukraine, which started on Jan. 8 and will last through Jan. 24, has to be prolonged. The reason, Stepanov said, is that so many people celebrated New Year and Christmas at mass gatherings and that there is a seasonal spike in flu infections, which increases the workload for local hospitals. He didn't explain why those predictable factors weren't taken into account when planning the lockdown.

See these features online at [kyivpost.com](http://kyivpost.com)

### Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week



Friend

**James Bezan, Canadian member of parliament**  
It's good to know that the West still rests on wise, forward-looking politicians who would never trade their nation's security and democratic values for "business as usual" with the Kremlin.



Foe

**Canadian authors advocating a "thaw" with Russia despite wars and dirty assassinations across the world.**  
Canadian "experts" Gilles Breton and Piotr Dutkiewicz won shame by joining the Kremlin's sad circle of apologists this week.

**Feel strongly about an issue? Agree or disagree with editorial positions in this newspaper?**

The Kyiv Post welcomes letters to the editors and opinion pieces, usually 800 to 1,000 words in length. Please email all correspondence to chief editor Brian Bonner, at [bonner@kyivpost.com](mailto:bonner@kyivpost.com). All correspondence must include an email address and contact phone number for verification.



# These sanctions are important



Anders Aslund

The US Department of the Treasury has imposed sanctions on seven Ukrainians accused of meddling in the recent American presidential election campaign on behalf of Russia. In a statement released on Jan. 11, U.S. officials confirmed the introduction of sanctions “against seven individuals and four entities that are part of a Russia-linked foreign influence network associated with Andrii Derkach. Russian agent Derkach was designated on Sept. 10, 2020, for his attempt to influence the 2020 US presidential election.”

The statement also featured commentary from U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Steven T. Mnuchin, who underlined that the new sanctions were in response to the actions of the Kremlin. “Russian disinformation campaigns targeting American citizens are a threat to our democracy,” Mnuchin was quoted as saying. “The United States will continue to aggressively defend the integrity of our election systems and processes.”

The four main sanctions targets are Ukrainian MP Oleksandr Dubinsky; former MP and current fugitive from Ukrainian justice Oleksandr Onyshchenko; former Ukrainian prosecutor Konstantin Kulyk; and former Ukrainian diplomat Andriy Telizhenko. All four were reportedly associated with efforts by US President Donald Trump’s personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani to uncover incriminating materials in Ukraine relating to Trump’s 2020 presidential election rival Joe Biden.

The US Department of the Treasury press release describes the four as members of Derkach’s “inner circle” and accuses them of having “publicly appeared or affiliated themselves with Derkach through the coordinated dissemination and promotion of fraudulent and unsubstantiated allegations involving a US political candidate. They have made repeated public statements to

advance disinformation narratives that US government officials have engaged in corrupt dealings in Ukraine. These efforts are consistent with and in support of Derkach’s efforts, acting as an agent of the Russian intelligence services, to influence the 2020 US Presidential election.”

The remaining three Ukrainians targeted by sanctions have personal links to Derkach and his media portfolio. Derkach’s media assets including NabuLeaks and Era-Media TOV have also been hit with sanctions and stand accused of serving as “media front companies in Ukraine that push false narratives at Derkach’s behest.”

The US Treasury did not directly name Rudy Giuliani, but the reference to “influential US persons” that appears in the sanctions announcement has been widely interpreted as indicating the former New York mayor. This will strengthen accusations leveled against Giuliani over his alleged involvement in Russian disinformation efforts to disrupt the 2020 US election.

News of the sanctions is likely to fuel debate over whether there is now sufficient evidence to prosecute Giuliani for his role in this alleged disinformation campaign. He had been widely tipped to lead President Donald J. Trump’s defense in a potential new impeachment process. However, today’s Treasury action might have complicated Giuliani’s involvement in any future impeachment proceedings.

The impact of the new sanctions will also resonate loudly within the Ukrainian political arena. Derkach’s media empire has relatively limited reach. However, the US decision to target his media outlets based on their role in the spread of Russian disinformation sets an important precedent and will raise questions



Ukrainian lawmaker Oleksandr Dubinsky checks his smartphone during a parliament session in Kyiv on Oct. 20, 2020.

Kostyantyn Chernichkin



Rudy Giuliani (L), personal attorney of U.S. President Donald Trump’s, meets with Ukrainian lawmaker Andrii Derkach in Kyiv on Dec. 5, 2019.

Andrii Derkach/Facebook

**NEWS ITEM:**

President Volodymyr Zelensky has his lowest political rating since the start of his tenure, according to the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology. Only 17% of Ukrainians still support him compared to the 30% support he received during the first round of the presidential election in 2019. Before Zelensky was elected, he’d starred on TV show “Servant of the People,” in which he played fictional character Vasyl Holoborodko, a teacher who became Ukraine’s president.



over who might be next in line for similar treatment.

Vladimir Putin’s closest Ukrainian ally, the Ukrainian MP and opposition leader Viktor Medvedchuk, reportedly controls a pro-Russian media portfolio far larger than Derkach’s that includes a number of prominent Ukrainian TV news channels. Medvedchuk himself has been on the US sanctions list since 2014 for his role in the occupation of Crimea. Will America soon consider sanctioning his TV channels?

With Ukrainian parliamentarian Dubinsky now joining Derkach and Medvedchuk on the sanctions list, this means the current Ukrainian parliament contains three prominent MPs who are each subject to sanctions by the United States. All three stand accused of being Russian agents or supporting Russian interests. To make matters worse, the country behind the accusations is widely acknowledged as Ukraine’s single most important ally in its struggle against Kremlin aggression.

This highlights the difficulty of Kyiv’s position. How can these three politicians remain members of the Ukrainian parliament at a time when a majority of their fellow MPs recognizes that the country is at war with Russia? Why has Ukraine not expelled the three sanctioned MPs from parliament or attempted to prosecute them for their alleged involvement in Russian intelligence operations?

Many in Ukraine’s reformist camp have welcomed news of the US sanctions. They have long called for similar measures and are now optimistic today’s sanctions are a sign of things to come. There are hopes that this is the first indication of a new US approach to Russian interference that will gain further momentum in the weeks and months ahead under the incoming Biden administration.

Anders Aslund is a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council in Washington. His latest book is “Russia’s Crony Capitalism: The Path from Market Economy to Kleptocracy.” This op-ed was originally published on Jan. 11, 2021, and is being reprinted with permission. ©



# Ukrainian advertising market expects 16% growth in 2021

By Alexander Query  
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Ukraine's advertising industry went 1% down in 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis but experts expect a 16% growth in 2021, according to the latest report by the All-Ukrainian Advertising Coalition, Ukraine's largest advertising association.

Cinema, outdoor and press advertising suffered most in 2020, but this is also where the association expects the most promising growth in 2021 if repetitive lockdowns come to an end.

However, Maxim Lazebnik, head of the All-Ukrainian Advertising Coalition (AUAC), says in the report that even if some sectors severely reduced their advertising investment due to business losses, "there was no catastrophe on the market."

In 2020, the market was valued at over \$862 million (Hr 24 billion). It may reach \$1 billion in 2021, but it is still far from the \$1.4 billion peak of 2013, before the EuroMaidan Revolution ended Kremlin-backed Viktor Yanukovich's presidency, triggering Russia's war on Ukraine in 2014.

## Online advertising

Online advertising was in the spotlight. To fuel their online presence, advertisers spent more money online than in 2019.

Volodymyr Petrov



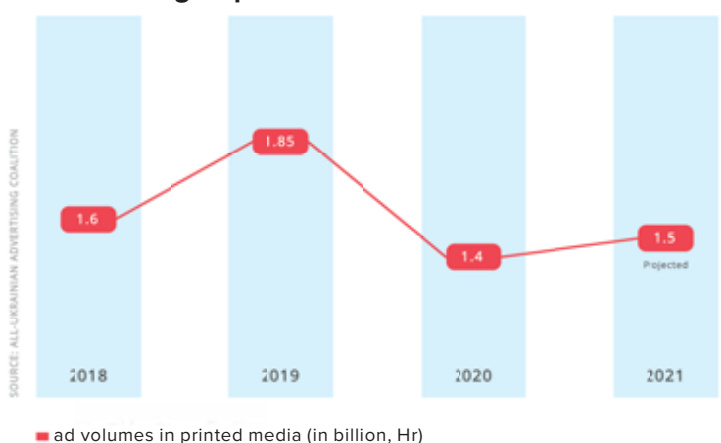
A woman passes by an advertisement in Kyiv on Sept. 14, 2020. Ukraine's advertising industry went 1% down in 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis but experts expect a 16% growth in 2021, according to the latest report by the All-Ukrainian Advertising Coalition, Ukraine's largest advertising association.

## Experts: Digital advertising poised to lead industry in 2021



Experts claim digital marketing will take the lion's share in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and people staying home to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

## Advertising in printed media



Experts say the COVID-19 crisis hit the Ukrainian press hard with fewer advertisers willing to pay for ads. The sector, however, is expected to come back to the levels of 2018 if Ukraine reopens in 2021.

The trend will continue, according to the AUAC. Search, video and web banner advertising will lead the sector in 2021.

In 2020, local advertisers spent Hr 6 billion on banner and YouTube ads, and this segment is expected to grow by 29% in 2021, reaching almost Hr 9 billion.

Ads in search engines like Google were worth Hr 19.9 billion, a 24% growth compared to 2019. In 2021, this segment will grow by 38% more and reach Hr 27 billion.

## Cinemas, offline ads

Cinemas suffered a lot in 2020, as they had to shut down during the lockdown in March–May and reduce their capacities by at least 50% to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. In this sector, advertisement plummeted 65%, from Hr 58 billion in 2019 to Hr 20 billion at the end of 2020.

However, the AUAC remains optimistic for 2021, forecasting a 30% rebound if the cinemas reopen.

"If there is no quarantine anymore, (we expect) a real boom in cinema attendance and, accordingly, ad sales," the report reads.

In total, the market for outdoor ads, including billboards and transport ads, was valued at Hr 3 billion in 2020, a 25% decrease compared to 2019 – the pandemic was the reason.

Transport advertising alone went down by 42%.

However, this segment is expected to go 17% up in 2021, as advertis-

Print vs digital advertising, revenue share



Despite the global trend of digitalization, print ads are the main source of revenue for Ukrainian publishers.

Source: All-Ukrainian Advertising Coalition

ers increase the use of high-tech billboards with animated ads and more space frees up as political ads are removed after the local elections held in Ukraine in October 2020.

## Ads in press, radio

The advertising market in the press was valued at Hr 1.4 billion (\$50 million) in 2020, which is 20.8% less than in 2019.

The national press suffered most, seeing a 21.7% drop in advertisement. The market has lost roughly Hr 240 million over the year. However, it is expected to grow by 5.2% in 2021, earning Hr 1.5 billion (\$53.5 million).

The main income for publishers

is still secured by print ads – 78% of their advertising revenue. Digital ads secure only 22% of the revenue from ads.

The radio advertising market remained unchanged, with advertisers spending Hr 717 million in 2020.

## TV commercials

The television advertising market grew in 2020: advertisers spent Hr 12 billion, a 5.6% increase. According to the AUAC, the first wave of quarantine increased TV viewing in March to over 6 hours a day per viewer.

The segment will continue to grow, reaching Hr 13.3 billion in 2021, the association estimates.



# Metro, air travel decline as road traffic goes up amid pandemic

By Daryna Antoniuk  
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The COVID-19 pandemic altered how Ukrainians get around.

Because of government restrictions, Ukrainians traveled half as much in 2020 as the year before, according to the State Statistics Service.

Many Ukrainians also switched to cars to avoid the risk of contracting coronavirus on public transport. Private transportation is also a more reliable way to go abroad — even when international flights were limited, many border checkpoints stayed open.

This took a toll on Ukrainian airlines and the Kyiv metro, whose revenues plummeted. More cars on the roads also increased congestion and road accidents in Kyiv in 2020, according to the City's Traffic Center.

## Kyiv Metro

In 2020, the Metro lost half of its passenger traffic, its head, Viktor Braginsky, said on Jan. 12.

According to Braginsky, the east-west red line with popular stations like Akademyshchyn, Teatralna and Khreshchatyk has carried the most — nearly 114 million people. The southwestern blue line was less busy: nearly 98 million Ukrainians traveled to Kontraktova Ploshcha, Olimpiyska, Minska and other stations. The north-west green line with stations like Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho and Lukyanivska has carried only 67.8 million passengers.

Around 1.5 million people used Kyiv's Metro every day before the quarantine, but now less than a million passengers travel by Metro daily.

Before the pandemic, the Metro earned an average of \$6 million a month. But during the strict quarantine in March-May, the enterprise's earnings plummeted to about \$225,000 a month. Kyiv's Metro administration said that it didn't have enough money to pay salaries and asked the government for help.

## Ukrainian airlines

Only 5.1 million people used Kyiv Boryspil International Airport in



A Kyiv Metro train crosses the Subway Bridge across the Dnipro River in Kyiv on Nov. 11, 2020. In 2020, Kyiv's subway lost half of its passenger traffic because of the pandemic restrictions.

Volodymyr Petrov

2020 compared to 15.3 million people the previous year.

Passenger traffic on charter flights was down by 46%; on regular flights — by 73%; and on transit flights — by 85%.

Even in December, usually the busiest month for airlines, Boryspil has 74% fewer passengers on regular flights compared to December 2019. Scheduled flights were down by 53% and transit flights were down by 91%.

Ukraine's aviation industry suffered during the strict international travel restrictions imposed by many countries, including Ukraine, to curb the spread of the virus, according to Ukraine International Airlines (UIA), the country's largest air carrier.

In 2020, UIA carried 1.7 million passengers, four times fewer than in

2019, resulting in a sharp drop in revenues and massive layoffs. The airline made only 17,000 flights this year, three times less than in 2019. As of December, UIA has laid off nearly half of its staff — 1,000 employees out of 2,560.

Another Ukrainian airline, SkyUp, lost over \$30 million in March-August, threatening the company with possible bankruptcy.

According to SkyUp co-owner Oleksandr Alba, the Ukrainian government did nothing to help domestic carriers survive the crisis, something that many European countries have done.

## Road traffic

Traffic congestion in Kyiv went up by 4.8% last year, according to the

City's Traffic Center. In fact, Kyiv ranked seventh among 416 cities by the amount of traffic jams.

According to the ranking by TomTom analytics, Ukrainian drivers spent 51% more time on the roads in 2020 than in 2019 because of jams. The roads are most overcrowded at 6 a.m., 8 a.m., and 6 p.m., the research said.

In 2020, traffic on Brovarsky Avenue, the longest road in Kyiv, increased by 26%. Traffic increased by 5–10% on Khreshchatyk and by 2.5% on Peremohy Avenue.

The traffic problem is only getting worse. The number of cars in Kyiv is growing every day while public transport remains in poor condition, according to municipal company Kyivplan.

Volodymyr Petrov



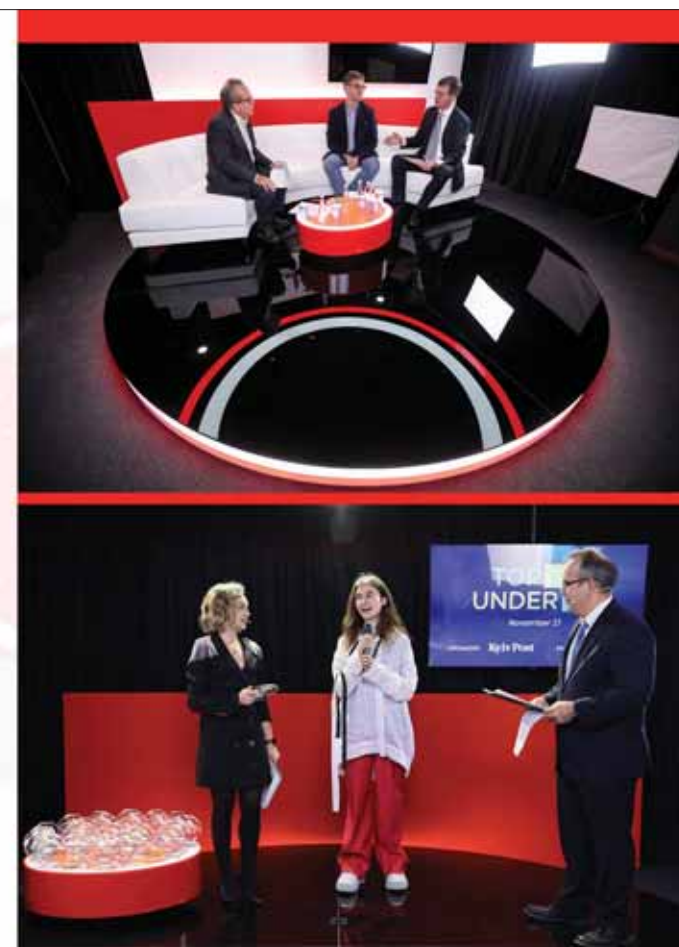
A flight attendant in protective gear measures the body temperature of a man inside a plane at the Boryspil International Airport outside Kyiv on June 13, 2020.

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## Dear Kyiv Post readers,

2020 was a hard year for everyone – the Kyiv Post included. The newspaper lost more than a third of its revenue, compared to 2019, and had to suspend publication of the weekly newspaper for two months because of COVID-19 as well as cancel our major events or move them online.

We have many people to thank for surviving our 25th year and giving us the opportunity to live into 2021 as Ukraine's Global Voice in the English language.

Our gratitude goes to our publisher, Adnan Kivan and the KADORR Group, for helping us through this crisis; our staff, for sacrificing all year; and our digital subscribers, whose numbers doubled this year.

We, of course, pay special tribute to these advertisers and donors who provided much of the lifeblood of revenue needed to keep independent journalism alive & strong in Ukraine.

We hope that 2021 is a healthy, happy & prosperous time for all!





# Uruskiy wants UkrOboronProm 'to go extinct as legal entity'

By Illia Ponomarenko

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Just weeks after being appointed as Ukraine's new Minister of Strategic Industries in late July, Oleh Uruskiy, 57, became one of the country's most influential power brokers.

Uruskiy is in charge of the national aerospace and defense sectors, which are of top importance amid the ongoing proxy war with Russia. In present-day Ukraine, this means having lots of strings to pull regarding national security matters and a crucial say on the future of the country's giant military industry.

On paper, Uruskiy's newly-created Ministry for Strategic Industries was meant to turn around Ukraine's declining defense production, which has been devastated by endemic corruption.

But it seems to have become yet another bureaucratic construct with broad powers.

Six months after his appointment as a deputy prime minister and minister for strategic industries, Uruskiy found himself buried under an avalanche of criticism from anti-graft watchdogs and reform advocates. He was accused of taking direct control over the defense industry and its financial flows, of non-transparent appointments — and most importantly, of trying to derail the long-suffering reform of defense production giant UkrOboronProm.

For many in the defense community, Uruskiy has become the symbol of the post-Soviet bureaucracy which is threatening to finish what remains of Ukraine's once-glorious defense industry.

However, Uruskiy, who had worked in state agencies for years before taking over the Minister of Strategic Industries, doesn't think so.

According to him, UkrOboronProm reform is alive and will be completed as planned, despite numerous scandals.

In his words, he does not intend to clamp down on the country's top enterprises, such as the legendary aircraft manufacturer Antonov, or the Pivdenne space design bureau.

He assures that his ministry is only around to regulate the industry and formulate a state defense procurement program. The ministry's control of the industry's largest enterprises creates no corruption risks, according to him.

"I don't see any conflicts of interest at all," Uruskiy says.

"Everyone is going to have certain mandates and tasks: the ministry develops policies, while (state defense production) companies execute them and do business."

## Conflict with UkrOboronProm

Almost immediately after the ministry's inception, Uruskiy clashed with UkrOboronProm's top management team created by Aivaras



Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Strategic Industries Oleh Uruskiy talks to the Kyiv Post at the Cabinet of Ministers on Dec. 30, 2020.

Anton Mikhenko

Abromavicius, then director-general of UkrOboronProm.

Abromavicius and his team advocated the reform of UkrOboronProm that would see the conglomerate divided into several stand-alone corporate holding companies to make it more effective and reduce the risks of corruption.

Months of tension between the management of UkrOboronProm and the new minister resulted in UkrOboronProm rolling out a headline-grabbing statement accusing Uruskiy of blocking the reform and interfering in the concern's business "starting from day one."

"We agreed (to working with the Ministry of Strategic Industries) in the hope of finding partners and like-minded reformers" as the corporation's deputy director-general Mustafa Nayyem asserted on Nov. 18.

"Instead of partnership, we faced systemic protraction in the development of strategic documents, the blocking of our draft bill, and the reform as a whole."

Uruskiy denies using any illegal pressure on the concern's management but says that he was forced "to start discussions about the top management" after he visited UkrOboronProm's enterprises and saw them "in a terrible condition."

Uruskiy accuses the concern's previous leadership of being "out of touch with life."

"They wanted many of UkrOboronProm's functions to be left out of the ministry's control," he says. "We did not agree with that. Because when it comes to transferring large amounts of public properties between enterprises, I see the lack of control by a central government agency as unacceptable."

In early December,

UkrOboronProm's acting director-general Ihor Fomenko, former deputy of Abromavicius, was replaced by Yuriy Husyev. Uruskiy and Husyev say they are mostly on the same page when it comes to the future of UkrOboronProm.

## Reform ahead

The new reform plan envisages two major holding companies — the Defense Systems of Ukraine and the Aerospace Systems of Ukraine — to be created within the next few years.

UkrOboronProm is still slated for elimination.

Defense Systems will control nearly 60 former UkrOboronProm enterprises divided into several specialized clusters producing military-grade hardware. Meanwhile, Aerospace Systems will take over predominantly civilian aircraft, engine, and space vehicle manufacturing.

Uruskiy's ministry intends to stand above them, shaping policy, rules, strategies, and the "business atmosphere." The holding companies would use the rules set down by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development: They'd be governed by independent supervisory boards, with 100% of their shares belonging to the government.

The ministry plans to have a big role in their business activities and hiring policies.

Uruskiy wants his representatives to be involved in the boards' work. The ministry would have a say "in the final approval of contracts and top management candidates."

"Most likely, director-generals will be appointed with the ministry's approval," he said.

Apart from that, Uruskiy confirmed he intended to take the so-called special export companies, such as UkrSpetsEkspert, away from UkrOboronProm — yet another controversial point in the ordeal.

Having exclusive rights on foreign arms deals, the special exporters are

the concern's most money-making affiliates making nearly \$908 million in 2019 alone, which is nearly 70% of the corporation's annual revenue.

In the future, Ukrainian defense producers will be entitled to obtain licenses and enter foreign markets on their own, he adds. The special exporters would have to become history — but for the duration of a "transitional period," Uruskiy's ministry wants to take them under its control.

## Acquisition programs

Throughout most of 2020, media and watchdogs fiercely criticized Uruskiy, the Defense Ministry, and the government for failing to fulfill the country's Hr 25.5 billion military acquisition plan, which was only 73% completed in November.

Besides, a range of milestone contracts to produce new hardware for the military, such as the Neptune cruise missiles and Antonov An-178 aircraft, were signed under severe public pressure literally in the final hours of 2020.

While insisting that the country's defense procurement program was 100% complete in 2020, he blames the lack of a systemic approach towards shaping the defense acquisition.

Numerous critics call Uruskiy one of the biggest troublemakers for the defense procurement program for 2021.

As far back as in July, parliament finally passed a long-awaited bill introducing new, more transparent, and effective principles of defense procurement, which was expected to enter full force starting in 2021.

But watchdogs say, both the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Strategic Industries failed to pass all necessary statutory regulations by the end of 2020 needed to synchronize their practices with the new legislation.

According to critics, this effectively blocked the introduction of new principles in 2021 and jeopardized

this year's whole defense procurement program.

Uruskiy strongly denied all accusations, saying that his ministry still has time to pass all necessary acts by Feb. 14, 2021. He said ten of these acts are now being agreed on in the government, including three that are crucial for the 2021 defense procurement program.

"Hopefully, we'll see them passed in January," he said.

## A ministry no different

Watchdogs and analysts still question the ministry's basics.

For much of the time since its inception in July, the ministry basically had only five officials — Uruskiy himself and his deputies. It had no reform strategy, almost no legal basis, no approved staff list, and no office.

Meanwhile, it was taking charge of the country's most important state-run industries, with a final say over the UkrOboronProm reform.

This raised many eyebrows.

Uruskiy responds to critics by saying that his ministry has already been established as a full-fledged government agency and, got the right to employ up to 333 staff members, and a Hr 2.7 billion (\$98.6 million) budget for 2021 and access to classified information.

But even now, the ministry has no website and communicates with the public mostly via its Facebook page.

In November, despite still being barely functional, the ministry started an Hr 2.7 million (\$95,000) tender to buy three cars, according to State Watch.

Uruskiy said there was nothing strange about such an early procurement. The ministry needs vehicles for its everyday activities and meetings with foreign delegations.

"(The vehicles) cost no more than Hr 900,000 apiece... and if we consider all our ministries, we're no different," he says. "Three cars for 333 personnel is just nothing." ❁



# Ukraine-China trade grows by \$3 billion despite 2020 recession

By Daryna Antoniuk  
antoniuk@kyivpost.com

Although the overall volume of Ukraine's international trade has decreased during the pandemic, with some trade partners, relations have only improved.

China was Ukraine's largest single nation trading partner for the second year in a row, according to the State Statistics Service. The Ukraine-China trade turnover accounted for \$15.4 billion in 2020, which is \$3 billion more than in 2019.

Ukraine exported to China \$7.1 billion worth of goods, including agricultural products and metals. Ukraine imported \$8.3 billion from China, consisting mainly of nuclear reactors, machinery, electric cars, and minerals.

China has been the leader among Ukraine's international partners since the first quarter of 2019, when it replaced Russia as the top trade partner.

Today China buys Ukraine's agricultural products and invests in the country's rails and roads to have better access to other European marketplaces, experts said.

## Selling to China

Agricultural products remained Ukraine's largest export sector, accounting for \$9.4 billion in 2020 — \$20 million less than in 2019. Ukrainian exports to China, the world's largest agricultural importer, consist mostly of raw agricultural materials and some food products.

Ukraine's exports to China account for nearly 1% of the Chinese total import, according to Ruslan Osypenko, the head of the Chinese

Commerce Association. Osypenko said that Ukraine still struggles to compete with other Chinese agricultural suppliers, including the United States, Russia and Brazil.

To ramp up the Ukrainian agricultural exports, the country's government has to support the industry and showcase its potential to investors abroad, Osypenko said in a May 15 interview with news website APK-inform.

## Buying from China

China is a huge market that hasn't stopped growing even amid the pandemic, ramping up its export to the record \$2.5 trillion in 2020.

Ukraine-China trade relations started to greatly improve in 2017, when the Chinese government promised to invest \$7 billion in Ukraine's roads and bridges. China needs

A combine unloads wheat grains on a field near the Krasne village in Chernihiv Oblast, 120 kilometers north of Kyiv, on July 5, 2019.



AFP

Ukraine's infrastructure to better trade with Ukraine and Europe, according to Danilo Bogatyrev, an expert from Ukraine's institute of politics.

Some 40 million Ukrainians can be a big sales market for Chinese companies who sell machinery, electrical utilities and minerals, according to Ukrainian economic expert Valeriy Klochok.

## Other trade partners

Ukraine's total trade turnover in 2020 declined by 6%, reaching

\$103.4 billion.

The imports went 10.3% down to \$54.2 billion, while exports of goods dropped by 1.7% to \$49.2 billion.

The changes in import-export have halved Ukraine's trade deficit in 2020, from \$10.2 billion to \$4.9 billion, according to Taras Kachka, deputy economy minister.

"For a crisis year, the results are not that bad," Kachka said on Jan. 1.

According to him, prices for metal and ores have done well, bringing Ukraine \$7.7 billion.

Ukraine exported 2.3% less grain

in 2020 but still got \$9.4 billion because the price for barley, wheat and corn went up, Kachka said.

Apart from China, Poland, Russia and Germany remained the main trade partners for Ukraine.

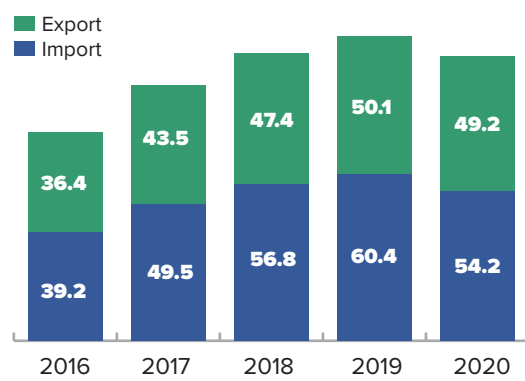
For years, Russia was Ukraine's main trading partner, but the relations between the countries stagnated after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014, starting its war in the Donbas. Last year, Ukraine exported to Russia \$2.7 billion worth of goods compared to \$3.24 billion in 2019. Russian's imports in 2020 accounted for \$4.6 billion compared to \$6.99 billion in 2019.

Even though Ukraine started to limit its trade with Russia, it didn't hurt the Ukrainian economy much — Ukraine signed a trade deal with the European Union that took effect on Jan. 1, 2016, which boosted trade between Ukraine and Europe by canceling customs duties for some exports.

Thus, Ukrainian businesses started to trade more actively on one of the world's largest markets with nearly 500 million consumers.

Although the EU remained a big trade partner for Ukraine in 2020, the global pandemic took a toll on their trade relations. In the first quarter of 2020, the bilateral trade between the European countries and Ukraine reached \$18.8 billion, which is 15% less than during the same period in 2019.

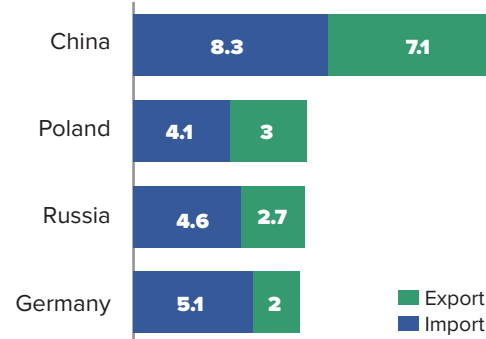
Ukraine's annual trade turnover, in billions of \$



Source: State Customs Service

Despite the global coronavirus crisis, Ukraine's trade turnover didn't drop much in 2020. Ukraine's main exports — agricultural products, steel and ore — remained in demand. Countries that depended on service and tourism industries, less developed spheres for Ukraine, suffered the most.

Ukraine's largest trade partners in 2020, in billions of \$



Source: State Customs Service

China has been Ukraine's main trade partner for two years now. In 2020, the Ukraine-China trade grew by \$3 billion, despite the overall trade volume decreasing for Ukraine by 6%.



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# US is right on these sanctions, but more actions are needed



**Sergii Leshchenko**  
mail.pravda@gmail.com

In today's Ukraine, three formidable forces are working to force the country to turn away from the West and forget the anti-corruption ideas of the 2013–2014 EuroMaidan Revolution that sent President Viktor Yanukovich fleeing to Russia.

The first of these forces is the 44-member faction of the pro-Russian Opposition Platform – For Life party in the Ukrainian parliament.

The second is the notorious billionaire oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky.

The third is Russia itself – a state whose president still appears to bear a psychological trauma from the collapse of the Soviet Union, which he calls “the main geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century.”

It was the United States that helped outline this malicious Triple Alliance by identifying three key figures in each of the groups of influence. So, in this convocation of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, three lawmakers have been directly sanctioned by the United States.

These include Viktor Medvedchuk, who leads the Opposition Platform – For Life party and trum-

pets his relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Sanctions against him were imposed back in 2014 as a response to the annexation of Crimea.

Another lawmaker under U.S. sanctions is Andriy Derkach, whom the U.S. government has declared an “active Russian agent” and who was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury in September for meddling in the 2020 presidential election won by Joe Biden.

Recently, a third Ukrainian lawmaker joined this deplorable list: Oleksandr Dubinsky, a lawmaker from the ruling Servant of the People party. Dubinsky is considered a mouthpiece of oligarch Kolomoisky and was included in the latest sanctions package on Jan. 11 as an associate of Derkach, who helped spread a fake narrative about Ukraine's interference in the U.S. 2016 presidential election and the alleged corruption of President-elect Joe Biden.

In addition to speaking publicly on this matter, Derkach and Dubinsky stupidly sent letters to members of the U.S. Congress promoting this fake narrative, which the U.S. gov-



Independent lawmaker Andriy Derkach (C) talks to Yuriy Lutsenko, then leader of the Petro Poroshenko Bloc political party in parliament (R) on March 16, 2016.

ernment believes to have originated in Russia.

**New sanctions, old faces**  
Curiously enough, the new sanc-

tions package also includes former lawmaker Oleksandr Onyshchenko. According to the U.S. authorities, it was he who handed the recordings of phone conversations between ex-President Petro Poroshenko and Biden over to Derkach for public disclosure. Derkach then tried to present the tapes as proof of international corruption that involved Biden.

For several years, Onyshchenko has been a fugitive from Ukrainian justice on embezzlement charges. During this investigation, it was established not only that the starting point of Onyshchenko's escape was Russia, but also that he had Russian citizenship. A few months ago, Onyshchenko appeared on Russian state television as a witness for the prosecution against Biden, as he was prevented from flying to the U.S. to deliver damaging information to the President Donald Trump's team.

Side by side with Onyshchenko in the Jan. 11 list of seven sanctioned Ukrainians is former U.S. embassy employee Andriy Telizhenko. In 2016, Telizhenko spread groundless conspiracy theories about the Biden family and foreign meddling in the 2016 presidential election. He spread the allegation that the Ukrainian government, through the embassy, had helped depose Paul Manafort.

To particularly sophisticated conspiracy fans, Telizhenko promoted tall tales that he had been present during some kind of a “briefing” that the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine Chief Artem Sytnyk had held at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next door to the White House to organize a wiretap of the Ukrainian president.

Until recently, Telizhenko worked as a consultant for oligarch Pavel Fuchs, who moved from Russia to Ukraine and tried to infiltrate Trump's 2016 inauguration by paying \$200,000 to a lobbyist.

Today, Fuchs is banned from visiting the U.S., and his lavish payments to Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani have been the subject of an investigation by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

The recent batch of sanctioned Ukrainians also included former prosecutor Kostyantyn Kulyk, an important figure in the anti-Biden conspiracy.

While still a prosecutor, Kulyk prepared a false memo for Giuliani saying that then-Vice President Biden and then-Secretary of State John Kerry had received bribes from Ukrainian oligarch Mykola Zlochevsky. Zlochevsky owns Burisma, a company that employed Biden's son. Kulyk also promoted another conspiracy theory that the U.S. investment fund Franklin Templeton laundered \$7.5 billion for the family of Yanukovich through the purchase of Ukrainian Eurobonds. Kulyk is connected to Derkach: In 2020, he ran as a candidate in local elections in Kharkiv on Derkach's party list.

## Why not Lutsenko?

For some unknown reason, the U.S. authorities unfairly left out former Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, Kulyk's boss. He wasn't among those sanctioned on Jan. 11, even though he definitely tried meddling in the U.S. election for personal benefit.

Lutsenko is no stranger to Derkach, whom the U.S. called an active Russian agent.

Not only did Lutsenko save Derkach from political oblivion in 2006, when he included him in the list of one of the winning parties of the 2004 Orange Revolution that brought Viktor Yushchenko to power.

He also gave Derkach's wife an award weapon when he was interior minister. He also promoted prose-

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# Sergii Leshchenko: US missed Lutsenko and others involved

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...cutor Kulyk and passed on Kulyk's speculations to American officials. Lutsenko, along with Derkach, promoted the most notorious falsehoods, accusing Ukraine of interfering in the election instead of Russia and urged at least two Giuliani associates to push for the ouster of Marie Yovanovitch, the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

The other day, one of the fake stories propagated by Lutsenko and used by Giuliani was completely refuted in a Ukrainian court. I am talking about the accusation against me and NABU chief Sytnyk that we interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election with our disclosures about Paul Manafort.

As the U.S. went into its Christmas recess, the Supreme Court of Ukraine put an end to this fictional story: It made a final ruling clearing me and Sytnyk of the accusations.

But this fake story, with Lutsenko's help, gave reason to Trump's entourage and the Russian prop-aganda to distort Ukraine's image. Giuliani relied on the 2018 ruling of Ukraine's most corrupt administrative court

that I had acted illegally by disclosing the payments to Manafort in Ukraine. He called me Trump's enemy on Fox News and CNN. Now that the Supreme Court of Ukraine has refuted another brick from this wall of fakes, I have not waited for an apology from either Giuliani or Lutsenko.

### More to come

After the U.S. has added seven Ukrainians and four organizations to the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List for attempting to interfere in its 2020 presidential election, it becomes a good reason to purge the Servant of the People party and expel from the faction Dubinsky, who has long been playing along with Kolomoisky, often contrary to Zelensky's interests. This is especially relevant in light of the FBI investigation into Kolomoisky using misappropriated funds to buy real estate in Ohio.

Last spring, during a meeting with the president of Ukraine, I witnessed Zelensky criticizing Dubinsky on the phone, demanding that he not block the PrivatBank law that went against the interests of Kolomoisky.

Now, with the U.S. linking Dubinsky to a Russian agent, this creates the right political background for Dubinsky's expulsion from the party and stopping its further decay. The leadership of the faction has no moral right to leave this situation unattended.

This situation should also deprive Russian agents of the tools of political influence. Dubinsky, for example, is the deputy head of the Verkhovna Rada's committee for taxation and finances, while he really appeared to use the position to serve the interests of his patron oligarch.

The U.S. sanctions do more than simply define the circle of toxic politicians, any connections with whom will cause problems in the U.S. They serve as a warning against the people who, intentionally or not, are promoting Russia's conspiracies and participate in its efforts to make Ukraine turn away from the West.

The U.S. government should sanction more Ukrainians, including those who use American platforms and achievements of its democracy to spread disinformation and bolster pro-Russian views.

This is why it is important to advo-



The Oct. 18, 2019, Kyiv Post front page chronicled the players involved in the scandal leading to President Donald J. Trump's impeachment after he suspended financial aid to Ukraine while pressuring President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate Joseph Biden. Trump was acquitted by the Senate on Feb. 5, 2020. But

cate for the ban of YouTube channels of blogger Anatoly Shariy, lawmaker Dubinsky, as well as Channel 112, NewsOne, and ZIK, which are controlled by Medvedchuk through his ally Taras Kozak.

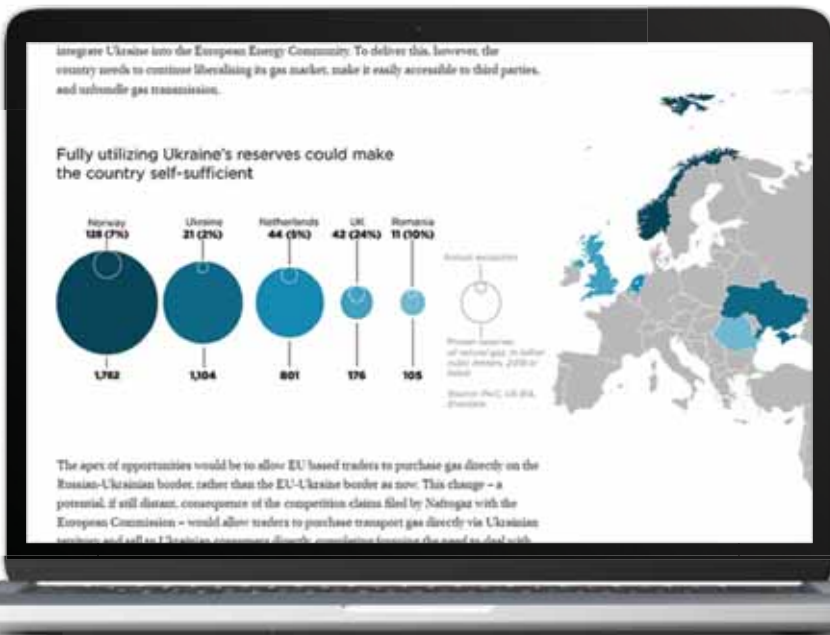
The latest events in the U.S.

showed that American democracy can protect itself. It's time to protect democracy in Ukraine, too.

Sergii Leshchenko is a Kyiv Post columnist, investigative journalist, and former member of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament.

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# US cracks down on Russian-linked friends of Rudy Giuliani

By Oleksiy Sorokin  
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The U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned seven current and former Ukrainian officials who tried to tip the U.S. presidential election for the outgoing President Donald Trump.

All seven are part of a Russian-linked foreign influence network associated with lawmaker Andrii Derkach. The group used dubious allegations to try to start an investigation against Biden and his son Hunter to hurt Biden's chances of winning the election.

"Russian disinformation campaigns targeting American citizens are a threat to our democracy," said U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin.

On May 19, Derkach leaked recordings of what he claimed were conversations between Biden and former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. Derkach claimed this proves that in 2016, Biden forced Ukraine to fire then-Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin to help Ukrainian oil company Burisma Holdings escape corruption prosecution.

Derkach's story was a lie, which has been debunked multiple times. In December 2019, Trump received his first impeachment for trying to strong-arm Zelensky into promoting this lie to sway the 2020 election.

In August, U.S. intelligence accused Derkach of acting in Russia's interests and trying to interfere in the election.

While Zelensky distanced himself from the scandal, the seven sanctioned Ukrainians actively promoted Trump's agenda in Ukraine for personal gain.

The group includes Servant of the People lawmaker Oleksandr Dubinsky, who is known for his anti-Western agenda and being the right-hand man of oligarch Ihor



Lawmakers Oleksandr Dubinsky (L) and Andrii Derkach speak during a parliament session in Kyiv on Dec. 12, 2019. Derkach has played a leading role in accusing former U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden of corruption in Ukraine, allegations that have not stood up well to scrutiny.

Kolomoisky. The oligarch, who is under investigation for money laundering in the U.S., has been on a quest to drive a wedge between Ukraine and its Western partners.

It also includes fugitive ex-lawmaker Oleksandr Onyshchenko, former diplomat Andrii Telizhenko, Ukraine's former prosecutor Kostyantyn Kulyk and Derkach's three low-profile allies Dmytro Kovalchuk, Anton Simonenko and Petro Zhuravel.

The group promoted Derkach's story and interacted with Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani,

who has been combing Ukraine for proof of his debunked conspiracy theories about Biden.

Ukrainian websites Era-Media, Only News, Nabu Leaks, and Skeptik were also sanctioned for spreading misleading allegations that U.S. officials engaged in corruption, money laundering and unlawful political influence in Ukraine. The websites are owned or controlled by Derkach or Zhuravel, a key member of Derkach's media team, according to the U.S. government.

Those on the sanctions list cannot do business with people or entities in

the U.S. and their property interests under U.S. jurisdiction are blocked.

"I expect criminal action to follow from the U.S. law enforcement," said Daria Kaleniuk, the executive director of the Anti-Corruption Action Center (ANTAC). "Ukraine must (also) thoroughly investigate the actions of those people. Unfortunately, I don't see any movement in this direction."

## Oligarch's lawmaker

Out of the seven, Dubinsky is perhaps the most widely known in Ukraine.

A member of Zelensky's faction in parliament, Dubinsky has actively promoted Kolomoisky's interests, blocking bills that can harm the oligarch.

Dubinsky's Telegram channel has over 77,000 followers while his YouTube account has 330,000 subscribers. He often appears on the Kolomoisky-owned 1+1 TV channel, where he once worked as an editor and host.

He uses his media platforms for smear campaigns against pro-Western politicians and officials, often attacking the International Monetary Fund and investor George Soros, who he claims controls pro-Western politicians and activists in Ukraine.

Since late 2019, Dubinsky began intervening in U.S. domestic affairs.

He met with Giuliani in Ukraine in December 2019.

According to Dubinsky, the two discussed the creation of a Ukrainian parliamentary anti-corruption commission tasked with investigating corruption under Poroshenko. However, Giuliani made it clear that

he came to Ukraine to dig up dirt on Biden.

In May, Dubinsky held a press conference together with Derkach, where they published tapes that they claimed demonstrated that Biden interfered in Ukraine's domestic affairs. Dubinsky then promoted these claims on his social media platforms.

Despite that, after being sanctioned by the U.S. Dubinsky claimed he never promoted Derkach's conspiracy theories.

The sanctions could deal a blow to Dubinsky's luxurious lifestyle. The lawmaker is known for enjoying expensive cars, real estate, and travels.

According to Kaleniuk, the lawmaker used to own a company in Slovakia, which was re-registered to his wife. Being a subject of U.S. sanctions can make future dealings in the European Union problematic for the lawmaker.

## Fugitive, lobbyist and prosecutor

Onyshchenko, Telizhenko and Kulyk all played important roles in inflaming the scandal.

The Russian-born millionaire Onyshchenko was the first to publish audiotapes of conversations with Poroshenko in the presidential administration.

In one of the recordings, he asks Poroshenko to help Mykola Zlochevsky, the ex-ecology minister and owner of Burisma, which previously employed Hunter Biden.

Onyshchenko, whose jet-setting lifestyle involved sailing in the



Lawmaker Viktor Medvedchuk (C) speaks to members of his Opposition Platform - For Life party during a parliament session in Kyiv on Sept. 1, 2020.



# US seizes assets, imposes ban on 7 who tried to get Trump reelected

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Mediterranean and partying with models and Hollywood celebrities, is fighting extradition to Ukraine, where he is wanted for allegedly organizing a \$125-million gas fraud scheme. He used the tapes to paint himself as a political refugee but was denied asylum in Germany and Spain.

Telizhenko helped organize Giuliani's trip to Ukraine in 2019, which was supposed to help him find dirt on Biden.

A self-proclaimed lobbyist, Telizhenko first gained attention in January 2017, when he claimed that the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C., where he briefly worked in 2016, colluded with the Democratic Party to undermine Trump's campaign.

That claim became central to a largely unproven and partially debunked narrative that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Soon, Telizhenko began intervening in the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Telizhenko befriended Giuliani and expressed a desire to undermine the Trump impeachment inquiry in interviews with the right-wing One America News network.

Since then, Telizhenko made unproven claims that Biden fired a Ukrainian prosecutor general to protect his son's Ukrainian employer, Burisma Holdings.

The sanctions will likely hurt Telizhenko and Onyschenko, who lead expensive lifestyles, travel frequently and do business with foreigners.

The last notable figure on the list is former chief prosecutor Kulyk,

who promoted Derkach's tapes and investigated Hunter Biden to frame his father.

According to the statement by the U.S. Treasury Department, Kulyk, together with Derkach, spread debunked accusations of international corruption.

Kulyk became controversial in 2016 after the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) charged him with illicit enrichment to the tune of Hr 2 million (\$80,000). The case was closed in March 2019 after the Constitutional Court struck down the illicit enrichment law as unconstitutional.

### Weak response

With the new U.S. administration soon taking office, Ukraine is trying to clean up the mess caused by



Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani listens as U.S. President Donald J. Trump speaks during a news conference in the Briefing Room of the White House on Sept. 27, 2020 in Washington, DC.

election.

The comment broke the Ukrainian president's silence after the U.S. sanctions were announced.

Earlier, the Zelensky administration's communication adviser Mykhailo Podoliak said that the administration doesn't have to com-

"I don't understand how the party is still tolerating Dubinsky in their ranks," said ANTAC's Kaleniuk, "If (Zelensky's) party worries about the remnants of their reputation they can't be associated with Kremlin agents who attempted to meddle in the U.S. presidential election."

### Reigning impunity

The U.S. sanctions have highlighted a key problem that keeps Ukraine in constant danger — Russian agents in Ukraine are exempt from prosecution. They control much of the media and have strong representation in parliament.

"The U.S. government calls Derkach an active Russian agent, who for years works on Russia's FSB," said Kaleniuk. "How is it possible that a lawmaker is an active agent of a country with which we are at war? It's treason."

Activists of Anti-Corruption Action Center appealed to Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova to start treason investigations into Derkach and Dubinsky. She initially declined to do it, prompting the activists to go to court, which finally ordered prosecutors to start the investigation. Derkach, a lawmaker since 1998, is

the son of General Leonid Derkach, a former Soviet KGB officer, who led the Security Service of Ukraine in the late 1990s. Derkach himself graduated from KGB academy in Moscow and until recently was a part of the interstate delegation to the Russian Orthodox Church synod.

Instead of an investigation, Derkach enjoyed backing from pro-Russian politicians, most notably Viktor Medvedchuk, leader of the pro-Russian Opposition Platform — For Life party which controls 44 seats in parliament.

Medvedchuk's media empire has supported Derkach's anti-Western narrative.

After taking office, Zelensky said the authorities would investigate Medvedchuk's pro-Russian media empire. Nothing was done. Instead, Zelensky's government's officials and his party's lawmakers often appear on Medvedchuk-controlled TV channels.

"It's a matter of national security," Kaleniuk says. "If there won't be a harsh reaction (from the administration), those actors will continue to enable the Russian agenda and pull Ukrainian away from its pro-European, pro-American vector." ❁

“Ukraine must thoroughly investigate the actions of those people. Unfortunately, I don't see any movement in this direction.”

Daria Kaleniuk, executive director at Anti-Corruption Action Center

dubious officials and revive bilateral relations with the U.S., which have largely been frozen under Trump.

On Jan. 13, Zelensky's chief of staff Andriy Yermak wrote on Twitter that the administration will "do everything" to hold responsible the Ukrainians who meddled in the U.S.

ment on the issue, as that would be the prerogative of the Servant of the People party.

However, the faction's deputy leader, lawmaker Yevhenia Kravchuk, also refused to comment, saying it was Dubinsky's "private affair" and he should "answer for himself."

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# Yuriy Husyev: Ukroboronprom will go out of existence in 2021

By Illia Ponomarenko  
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Former Kherson Oblast governor Yuriy Husyev became on Dec. 3 the third official managing Ukraine's state-run defense production giant UkrOboronProm in the last four months.

In an unpleasant surprise for many, the previous top manager, Ihor Fomenko, part of the corporation's pro-reform team, was dismissed after just two months after his appointment.

Husyev's out-of-the-blue appointment seemed a major victory of Oleh Uruskiy, the controversial deputy prime minister fiercely criticized for allegedly torpedoing the industry's reforms and who had been in an acute conflict with UkrOboronProm's leadership for months.

But, against expectations, the new top manager has already produced some results.

As one of his first steps in the office, Husyev signed on Dec. 21 an order to immediately initiate UkrOboronProm's transformation into a new holding company managed under modern corporate rules, as it had been sought for years.

Now it looks like Husyev has been given a chance to book a place in history books for himself and finally complete the life-saving therapy of Ukraine's once-glorious defense production sector devastated by endemic corruption and horrible productivity.

Time will tell if he makes use of this chance.

But in a Jan. 5 interview with the Kyiv Post, the new director-general vowed to get his mission accomplished.

"In 2021, UkrOboronProm will be eliminated as it is today," he said, noting that President Volodymyr Zelensky has given him only six months to complete the task. "We have already started the process of UkrOboronProm's corporatization."

## Plan still in force

UkrOboronProm is still a highly-centralized association that manages 137 defense production enterprises, 21 of which located on Russia-occupied territories.

It is responsible for covering nearly 36% of the country's annual military procurement plans. In late 2020, it reported 100% of its government contracts completed, with the total amount of manufactured products worth Hr 30.2 billion (\$1.08 billion), which is 102% of the amount produced in 2019.

Nonetheless, the arms corporation is in a horrible financial situation.

According to Husyev, the top 28 enterprises generate 98% of UkrOboronProm's annual revenue, with nearly 100 others barely surviving or even being totally defunct.

The corporatization reform is expected to save the day for the struggling industry.

It seems that the ultimate plan has been finally settled on reorganizing UkrOboronProm into a state-run holding company Defense Systems



State defense concern UkrOboronProm's director general Yuriy Husyev talks with the Kyiv Post in the company's main office in Kyiv on Jan. 5, 2021.

of Ukraine that would manage 65 enterprises divided into six specialized clusters: armored vehicles, radar systems, maritime systems, special chemistry and ordnance, highly-precise weapons, and aircraft repairs.

There will also be another holding company, Aerospace Systems of Ukraine, to manage predominantly aircraft, engine and space vehicle manufacturing.

Both holding companies and their subordinates are going to have their own supervisory boards, corporate management and a stock of shares, 100% of which will be owned by the government.

The whole reorganized industry is to be regulated by the recently-created Ministry of Strategic Industries headed by Uruskiy, who was accused by previous UkrOboronProm leadership of derailing the reform and trying to assume personal control over the country's most important defense enterprises.

## Annihilation in 2021

UkrOboronProm, as a highly-centralized concern created in 2010 under then-President Viktor Yanukovich to extract benefits from the country's extensive network of defense production enterprises, is expected to be eliminated forever.

Hopefully, this will be the long-expected end of the behemoth that has been sucking out life from the

country's defense industry amid the war with Russia.

Husyev reassured that this was exactly what is envisaged in the reform's ultimate roadmap, which had recently been filed for approval by the country's National Security and Defense Council.

And even though the transformation process has formally been initiated, everybody is still waiting for the approval of bill No. 3822, the holy grail of Ukraine's defense reform advocates, which is basically meant to provide the complete legal basis for UkrOboronProm's corporatization.

The crucial bill was submitted to the Verkhovna Rada in early July, but it is still a subject of bureaucratic ping-pong, particularly due to numerous questionable amendments and delays by Uruskiy's Strategic Industries Ministry.

However, following consultations with the parliament's security committee, Husyev expects the bill to be passed in the first reading in late February and "we will be asking the president to get it signed" as soon as possible, he said.

"So that, within six months of 2021, we could complete the transformation of UkrOboronProm into more effective holding companies practicing modern corporate management, which would complete contacts from clients, the Defense

Ministry, and which would become a more effective partner to our international colleagues."

According to the official, the sector's complete transformation will take another "several years," though.

## Financial healing

After months of conflict between the corporation and Uruskiy, new top manager Husyev claims to be on the same page with the minister's vision of the reform.

At a bit closer look, however, it appears that there's still a silent battle going on for one of the most delicious pieces of UkrOboronProm's legacy — the six special exporting companies.

Having a monopoly right on arms deals in foreign markets, these UkrOboronProm affiliates normally generate nearly 70% of the corporation's annual revenue, in many ways helping finance its management apparatus and other enterprises.

The problem is that minister Uruskiy wants to assume control of the special exporters during a "transitional period." Husyev does not like Uruskiy's plan.

"From my perspective, special exporters must remain with the Defense Systems of Ukraine — until its specialized branches get licensed and start operating in foreign markets.

"Special exporters have expertise in markets and contracts and partnership relations with other nations. And we need them to help our enterprises earn contracts and start working effectively in foreign markets too."

In the future, he added, defense production companies should have

a choice between acting in foreign markets on their own — or adhering to the expertise and contracts of special exporters.

The official said he hoped to increase export revenue to \$700 million in 2021.

The corporation is indeed in grave need of financial inflow to survive — to the extent, it has to get rid of many of its hopeless entities.

Recently, UkrOboronProm has given up on its 17 companies and put them for sale, looking for private investors.

Husyev also said he hopes to keep the money from the sale for the corporation.

"It is important to understand that a range of enterprises that are crucial to the defense production industry now require financial recovery," he said.

"In particular, we're working on providing the Kharkiv State Aircraft Manufacturing Company with such (financial) assistance. It's an enterprise that used to uphold serial production of the Antonov family aircraft. Now, it is in a very complicated financial situation and amendments to current laws are required (to get it improved)."

## Fresh start

Husyev's first weeks in the office gave some more reasons for cautious optimism.

In the very last hours of the year 2020, UkrOboronProm and the Defense Ministry, amid enormous public pressure, finally signed long-awaited contracts to provide Ukraine's Armed Forces with three Antonov An-178 aircraft and a division of Neptune cruise missiles.

Besides, Husyev promised to finally present by the end of January the results of an in-depth independent audit into UkrOboronProm's activities in the year 2018, which is expected to reveal many vile things done at the corruption-riddled corporation.

He vowed also to keep things stiff regarding graft — the previous leadership team created by Aivaras Abramavicius, former economy minister, was praised in the expert community for the absence of corruption scandals.

The official said he intends to stay in close touch with anti-graft watchdogs like Kyiv-based State Watch.

"Last year, UkrOboronProm also signed a memorandum with Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau," Husyev said.

"We count on fruitful cooperation with anti-graft agencies to prevent (corruption) and also penalize anyone who abuses power at UkrOboronProm's enterprises."

Besides, he added, under his leadership, the corporation is going to keep with its recently-introduced rule of examining all top managers with lie detectors — and make even medium-level officials subjects to examination.

"For instance, my own press secretary has undergone lie detector questioning as she was preparing to hold her position," he said. ☺





# Yuriy Vitrenko: Nuclear energy will be needed for a long time

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adherence to the European Union's "third energy package," the main tenets of which are: unbundling, or the separation of energy supply from the transmission; an independent regulator; cross-border cooperation; and open and fair retail markets.

Ukraine went partly down the market road in the natural gas sector, with the creation of an independent company to manage the nation's vast pipelines that have transported enormous amounts of natural gas from Russia to Europe, earning Ukraine billions of dollars yearly in transit fees.

The nation has also diversified its wholesale natural gas sector, he said, but has made no progress in the retail gas trade. There, he said, Firtash dominates the segment and is able to make exorbitant profits. The solution, he said, is to either regulate the prices that Firtash charges consumers or create a competitive market for retail gas sales.

Firtash still enjoys preferences — and a monopoly on regional gas distribution companies — while owing Naftogaz more than \$1 billion for unpaid gas supplies, putting a lie to the perception that the company is battling the oligarch, Vitrenko said.

Ukraine's electricity sector is also in dire need of market competition, he said. This means connecting Ukraine's grid to the European Union as soon as possible, rather than allowing domestic producers to continue to keep a stranglehold on supply.

His vision is one of decentralized electricity supplies because "the most efficient way is to produce and consume energy on the spot." Eventually, he said, that will mean private homes will be able to store their own electricity. "The future of energy is smart grids," he said.

## Climate change

Ukraine will soon be forced to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels — oil and coal-fired electricity — as the world tries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet, potentially with catastrophic results, if decisive action isn't taken by 2050.

That's the year that the European Union has set its goal for becoming carbon neutral. Other nations, including the biggest polluter, China, have made similar pledges. The United States, the world's No. 2 polluter, is also expected to accelerate its transition to climate-neutral energy sources after Joe Biden becomes president on Jan. 20.

For Ukraine, the EU is likely to start penalizing the nation, through



An employee operates at a gas drilling site belonging to state-owned UkrGasVydobuvannya, which controls domestic natural gas production, on Oct. 24, 2018 in Poltava Oblast.

trade and fines, for continued use of fossil fuels. Vitrenko concedes that Ukraine is behind the green curve, noting that, to see results in energy policy, "you need to start something five years in advance."

But he said Ukraine has some clear advantages and is showing progress in the following ways:

- Renewable energy sources are going to become so cheap and plentiful (if the storage problem is solved) in the next decade that government subsidies will no longer be required; Ukraine's abundant solar and wind potential, now accounting for about 8% of Ukraine's energy supply, will position it well to capitalize on the switch;
- Ukraine's underutilized gas transit pipelines can also be used to export hydrogen, a chemical used to store electrical power;
- The government has reduced subsidies to coal mines from a high of \$8 billion yearly to less than \$500 million yearly;
- New technologies may allow Ukraine's nuclear power plants — which generate up to half of the nation's electricity — to keep operating more cheaply, safely and with less radioactive waste;
- The Stockholm arbitration award of \$3 billion against Gazprom showed that, when Ukraine's laws or rights are violated, the nation

should be more aggressive in pursuing legal challenges against those who transgress.

"The future is with renewable energy," he said. "The problem is how to get to the future." Among the challenges in the next decade:

- Ukraine needs a financially sustainable solution to the \$1 billion in payments that the government owes renewable energy providers in order to attract future investors to the sector;
- Investment will have to be made in modernizing Ukraine's nuclear reactors;
- DTEK and other private players will have to be part of the solution in phasing out electricity generated from fossil fuels, including coal, which will require helping the nation's coal miners to find other work;
- Naftogaz will have to be overhauled — privatized or turned over partly to strategic investors — because it "has no real business model" and will lose money; and
- Ukraine must figure out how to attract investment into domestic oil and gas production, which has been flat or declining since independence nearly 30 years ago.

"It's not science fiction," Vitrenko said of the advancements that could make Ukraine energy independent and environmentally friendly. But Ukraine has to become "much more serious" about devising a sustainable energy policy, "otherwise there's no future."

## Pro-nuclear power

While nuclear energy is now seen as a dangerous, expensive and wasteful way to generate electricity, Vitrenko has a different view. He is not alone. Business luminaries such

as billionaire Bill Gates, who founded Terrapower, are promoting advancements in nuclear power technology that will generate electricity that is safe, abundant and carbon-free. He talked about his ideas in the Netflix documentary "Inside Bill's Brain: Decoding Bill Gates." The gist of Gates' pitch is that most nuclear power plants are running on outdated, decades-old technologies that gave rise to such disasters as Ukraine's Chernobyl in 1986 and Japan's Fukushima in 2011.

In contrast to such nations as Germany that are phasing out nuclear power, Vitrenko said that nuclear power should be utilized more in the nation's energy grid, at the expense of fossil fuel-generated electricity.

"We cannot live without nuclear energy if we want to achieve de-carbonization," Vitrenko said. "Nuclear power will generate half of the electricity in this country; it's the backbone of our energy consumption. We should not be planning any decommission of nuclear power plants in the nearest future."

Besides, he said, renewable energy is not yet reliable. Sometimes solar and wind power cannot be generated when it is needed. Conversely, at other times, "they produce energy that nobody needs." Until better technologies are invented to store such energy, renewables cannot reliably power energy grids, he said.

## Unlike his parents

Vitrenko's parents were creatures of the Soviet Union. His famous mother, Nataliya, who will be 70 this year, finished in fourth place in the 1999 presidential election with 11% of the vote during a campaign in which she was wounded when assailants threw hand grenades in a crowd

during one of her rallies. She ran on an anti-Western platform. His father, Yuriy, a noted economist, worked for the State Planning Committee, known as Gosplan, which exercised centralized control over the economy.

Their son, one of three children, is committed to Ukraine's democratic, European future. He has a master's of business administration from INSEAD, and worked for PwC and as an investment banker for Merrill Lynch in the London office before starting his own firm, AYA Capital.

If he does get the energy minister's job for good, he won't try to manually control the sector the way that Soviet planners tried — and ultimately failed — with the economy.

"I cannot replace the market. Nobody can replace the market," Vitrenko said. "My role is to remove these distortions" that hamper Ukraine's development of a market economy, he said.

Properly regulated competition will end situations such as Rotterdam+, in which DTEK was accused of benefiting from a government pricing formula for coal-generated electricity that investigators and energy experts say needlessly cost Ukrainians \$1.4 billion before it was abandoned.

"Ukraine cannot win this game against Ukrainian oligarchs, corrupt prosecutors, judges, and politicians," Vitrenko said. "I will focus on a new game, which is to integrate with the European market. The only way is to physically connect with the European energy grid as soon as possible, within half a year, ideally, and a maximum of two years. That will allow for exports and imports of electricity to and from Europe." Full European integration is the best way to "clean the Augean stables," he said.

The West has and can be helpful, he said, citing many examples — including President-elect Joe Biden's involvement (as U.S. vice president) in getting Slovakia to supply Ukraine with large amounts of natural gas and with supporting the establishment of independent boards of directors for corporate governance. But "to save Ukraine should be the problem of Ukrainians."

Ukraine needs to specifically and explicitly describe what assistance it requires. Such definition was useful when Ukraine outlined the vulnerabilities of Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline in a way that led to U.S. sanctions that have stalled the completion of the project that will double existing transit capacity to 110 billion cubic meters annually bypassing Ukraine.

He envisions developing concrete proposals to get the Biden administration to help Ukraine integrate into the European electricity market.

And what does the West want from Ukraine

"They need Ukraine to be part of the free world because it makes the free world stronger. But the West needs Ukraine to contribute to the strength of the free world, not make it weaker." ❧



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# Iryna Venediktova: Prosecutors fighting crime internationally

page 2 →

Lithuania, Poland, the USA and the Czech Republic.

Our task is a thorough study of each document received from foreign states or sent to them for compliance with international treaties and Ukrainian law. We are not a postal service that sends everything it receives.

The effectiveness of the pre-trial investigation and observance of its reasonable time limits as well as the observance of the rights and freedoms of citizens subject to criminal prosecution depend on such a thorough examination. Furthermore, each such decision affects the image of Ukraine as a European state that fulfils its international obligations.

In addition, for instance, during the extradition procedure, the prosecutor's task is to verify the status of lawfulness during the apprehension, imposition of preventive measures on a person, and their actual surrender. We must also ensure that mutual interstate guarantees for the extradition of a person with a view to criminal prosecution are complied with.

## Extraditing suspects

Last year we significantly intensified our work in the field of international cooperation on extradition, in particular, with the competent authorities of the United States, Georgia and other countries. Two members of the management of the Islamic State terrorist group, one of the leaders of the Taliban movement and two people accused of fraud and money laundering for the amount of about \$145 million were extradited.

In total, during 2020, the Prosecutor General's Office made 72

decisions on requests for extradition of foreign states, and 37 offenders have already been transferred. In addition, 82 requests for extradition from Ukrainian pre-trial investigation bodies were sent to foreign states. Despite the problems of international traffic caused by the pandemic, admission of 21 offenders to Ukraine was arranged for.

In addition, the Prosecutor General's Office is a key link in the organization of international search for a person within criminal proceedings and acts as a guarantor of all legal and current decisions under which a foreign law enforcement agency temporarily detains a person.

We are processing requests from the Ukrainian pre-trial investigation bodies for international search for offenders using the INTERPOL channels. This year, 232 requests were considered, and the intention to request extradition of 162 offenders was confirmed.

In some cases, in 2020 international joint investigation teams have been set up for the competent authorities of Ukraine and foreign states to conduct coordinated investigations into criminal proceedings on the most serious and complex transnational crimes. This year, the Prosecutor General signed 8 agreements on the establishment or continuation of activities of such teams.

Working within a joint investigation team with international partners over six years in the case of the downing of the Malaysian Boeing over the occupied part of Ukraine has made it possible for the whole world to observe the process taking place in The Hague. Hearings in respect of four suspects have been ongoing since March this year.



Volodymyr Petrov

Women comfort one another as friends and relatives of the 11 Ukrainians killed on the Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752 gathered at the Willow Grove Square on the bank of Dnipro River on the first anniversary of the tragedy to commemorate their loved ones in Kyiv on Jan. 8, 2021.

## Flight PS752

Another global crime is the downing with missiles of the Ukraine International Airline flight PS752 in the sky of Iran, killing 176 people from six countries, on Jan. 8, 2020. Here we must skillfully apply the rules of international law to be able to investigate the crime without access to the territory where it was committed.

In order to establish the objective circumstances of the air crash, the Prosecutor General's Office sent 17 requests for international legal assistance to the countries of Europe,

Asia and North America and provided them with appropriate support.

The use of international tools to gather evidence, analyzing open data sources, and operating with the case law of the International Court of Justice makes prosecutors work their way to establish the truth.

## Russia's crimes

In addition, we use the mechanisms of international cooperation in criminal proceedings to protect Ukraine's interests from violations of its sovereign rights.

For seven years prosecutors and other law enforcement officers have been continuously collecting evidence for the criminal actions of the aggressor, the Russian Federation, against Ukraine and defending the rights of injured Ukrainians in all instances.

More than 20,000 crimes related to armed conflict have been documented and are being investigated in more than 5,000 criminal proceedings. A special Department for Procedural Guidance for Crimes Committed in Armed Conflict has been established in the Prosecutor General's Office. This year, this unit has notified 54 people of suspicion in committing particularly grave crimes.

We already have hundreds of people convicted by Ukrainian courts who have committed crimes related to armed aggression and we also have prosecuted citizens of the Russian Federation, some of them in absentia.

## International court

And we are moving towards the protection of the sovereign rights of the Ukrainian people in international institutions as well. Since 2016, prosecutors, together with international non-governmental organizations, have sent a total of 15 information reports to the International Criminal Court on the most serious crimes

committed against the Ukrainian people.

With regard to the events in eastern Ukraine, information was provided on the evidence that the Russian Federation commands the control over outlaw armed formations operating in the region, as well as evidence of murder, extrajudicial executions, torture, and humiliation of dignity in armed conflict, illegal detention and other serious crimes against people's life and health.

## Crimean crimes

Regarding the events in Crimea, the information on the following has been forwarded: forced movement of our citizens from the territory of the peninsula, deportation, illegal destruction and misappropriation of property, use of the civilian population as a "human shield," the militarization of children and other.

This complex and voluminous work has finally paid off – on Dec. 11, the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court made a historic decision. ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda has announced the completion of a preliminary examination of events in Ukraine related to the international armed conflict in Donbas and Crimea, and will recommend initiation of a full-fledged investigation into the situation in Ukraine.

This is the first important step in the international process, and we hope that the proper satisfaction of Ukraine's interests will be upheld so that those who are unfortunately inaccessible to Ukrainian justice, in particular the top leadership of the Russian government, do not escape criminal responsibility.

*Iryna Venediktova is the prosecutor general of Ukraine. She took office in March 2020. She is a former acting head of the State Investigation Bureau and ex-Chair of the Committee on Legal Policy of the Verkhovna Rada.*

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# Investigative report: Kolomoisky & Akhmetov control 170 lawmakers

By Oleg Sukhov  
sukhov@kyivpost.com

Oligarchs Ihor Kolomoisky and Rinat Akhmetov control about 70 and about 100 members of the Verkhovna Rada, respectively, according to a Jan. 11 investigation by the Bihus.info investigative show. That's 40 percent of parliament. Akhmetov's company, System Capital Management, responded: "We firmly deny the unsubstantiat-

ed allegations of 'control' over any members of parliament by Rinat Akhmetov or any of his businesses. SCM and our investees do business in full compliance with Ukrainian law and all ethical standards respecting the independence and opinions of members of parliament." Kolomoisky did not respond to requests for comment. But, based on voting for bills that benefit Kolomoisky, he controls 24 lawmakers of the For the Future

(Za Maibutne) group and 45 lawmakers in President Volodymyr Zelensky's Servant of the People faction, Bihus.info reported. Out of the 45 Servant of the People lawmakers, 25 are directly linked to Kolomoisky and his businesses. Specifically, Oleksandr Dubinsky, Oleksandr Kynytsky and Olga Vasilevska-Smaglyuk from the Servant of the People, as well as Ihor Palytsya, Taras Batenko and Iryna



Lawmakers Ihor Palytsya (L) and Ihor Huz (C) of the 24-member Za Maibutne (For the Future) faction in parliament, speak at the Verkhovna Rada meeting on Sept. 12, 2019. Palytsya has been accused of lobbying for oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky's interest, although he denies communicating with the tycoon.



Press service of Ukrainian president

## Moldova's new president visits Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and his Moldovan counterpart Maia Sandu attend a welcoming ceremony ahead of their meeting in Kyiv on Jan. 12, 2021. It is the first visit of a sitting Moldovan president to Ukraine since 2012. Sandu, who is seen as a democratic and pro-Western politician, was inaugurated on Dec. 24. The presidents vowed to build a new highway to speed travel between Kyiv and Chisinau by 90 minutes. Currently, the travel time is at least 6.5 hours to cover the distance of 470 kilometers.

Konstankevych from the For the Future group have offices next to Kolomoisky's headquarters in Kyiv. They have denied communicating with Kolomoisky. However, Kolomoisky has admitted to communicating with Dubinsky. Meanwhile, Akhmetov controls about 50 lawmakers, including 40 in the Servant of the People faction, and another 50 often support initiatives favored by the oligarch, according to Bihus.info. In December lawmakers allied with the oligarchs pushed through state funding for ore dressing plants controlled by the oligarchs. Another example cited by Bihus.info is a failed vote for the appointment of Yury Vitrenko as energy minister in December. Lawmakers affiliated with Akhmetov opposed the appointment because he would replace Akhmetov proteges, while Kolomoisky's allies, at odds with Akhmetov, backed Vitrenko.

Akhmetov's allies also blocked passage of budget amendments in September. They voted for the amendments a month later after a clause was added to provide state guarantees for state-owned power company Ukrenergo's debt to power plants owned by Akhmetov. Bihus.info also referred to efforts by Akhmetov's allies to fire Valery Tarasyuk, head of Ukraine's energy commission after refusal to increase electricity tariffs. These include Lyudmila Buisimister, Oleksiy Kucherenko, Valentyn Nalyvaichenko and Mykhailo Volynets. Both Akhmetov's allies and those of Kolomoisky have also supported attempts to fire Artem Sytnyk, head of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU). Oligarchs and top officials have sought to replace Sytnyk with their protégé to prevent the NABU from going after top-level corruption.

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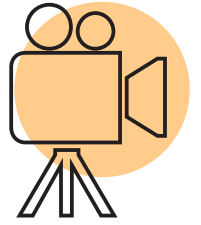
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The New British Film Festival, running until Jan. 17, offers a selection of some of the best feature and short films by British directors of the past 20 years. Watch online for free at [www.nbff.com.ua](http://www.nbff.com.ua).



## The 12 most extraordinary sights of Soviet architecture

Volodymyr Petrov



Arguably the most famous example of Soviet architecture in Kyiv, Flying Saucer, or UFO, was designed by local architect Florian Yuriev and built in 1971.

**By Elina Kent**  
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Architectural Soviet modernism was an unlikely phenomenon. In a country where creativity was censored and restricted, bold experimental structures appeared against the odds.

The style was prominent between 1955 and 1991, replacing Stalinist architecture, which abandoned modernity for Gothic styles and Russian baroque to show foreign countries the prosperity of the Soviet Union.

But after Joseph Stalin's death, the new ruler, Nikita Khrushchev condemned the amount of money spent on Stalinist buildings and demanded lower costs for new construction.

That was also the time when the Thaw started. Western architectural magazines made their way through the iron curtain and influenced local artists. An extraordinary genre emerged, combining imaginative ways of thinking with the essence of power.

Thirty years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, modernist buildings still stand in Kyiv as an essential part of the city's diverse architectural identity.

The style's aesthetic has risen in popularity in recent years far beyond post-Soviet countries. Modernist

structures in Ukraine have become an attraction for a variety of film productions whether they be music videos, commercials or fashion campaigns.

But behind the structures' polished images, a fight for their preservation is under way. With little state protection, some buildings decay while others are under threat of sloppy renovations or even destruction. Their fate has fallen on the shoulders of activists and the original architects themselves.

All the while, the striking modernist sites keep attracting tourists to Kyiv. Here are 12 of the best local structures worth visiting:

### Flying Saucer

designed by: Florian Yuriev  
1971  
address: 180 Antonovycha St.  
closest metro: Lybidska

To see the UFO that crashed into the Kyiv Institute of Information in 1971, turn left from Ocean Plaza mall after coming out of the Lybidska metro station.

Well, it wasn't actually a UFO crash, but there was an intense space race between the Soviet Union and the United States that not only resulted in progress in space travel but also inspired Russian-born Ukrainian architect Florian Yuriev to come up

with this design.

It's easy to walk right under the structure that hovers 10 meters above the ground to appreciate its plain but extraordinary shape and size. The Flying Saucer was initially designed to be used by the KGB but eventually became a venue for events and concerts.

Arguably the most recognizable modernist building in Ukraine, the Saucer was almost swallowed by the expanding mall behind it. After years of activists fighting to protect the modernist building, the government added the Saucer to the registry of protected architectural landmarks, which the activists hope will keep the structure safe.

### Kyiv Crematorium

designed by: Avraam Miletsky, Ada Rybachuk, Volodymyr Melnichenko  
1968-1975  
address: 16 Baikova St.  
closest metro: Lybidska

At first glance, this looks like anything but a place for burning the dead. The structure might resemble the sand igloos on the planet Tatooine from "Star Wars" but it is in fact a fully functioning crematorium.

Planned out in 1960, the unexpected design owes much to the still-fresh memory of the Babyn Yar tragedy. In 1941, the Nazis murdered 34,000

Jews and burned their bodies in the Babyn Yar ravine. No one needed any visual reminders of burning the dead, so artists Ada Rybachuk and Volodymyr Melnichenko came up with what we see today, an eye-catching design that bears no association with its function, helping funeral participants cope and heal after the loss of a loved one.

The crematorium is located in the Memory Park at the back of Baikove Cemetery.

### Hotel Salute

designed by: Avraam Miletsky, N. Slogotskaya, Vladimir Shevchenko  
1982-1984  
address: 11B Ivana Mazepy St.  
closest metro: Arsenalna

Yet another striking modernist structure that sticks out against the 21st century Kyiv skyline is Hotel Salute. Dubbed "the grenade," the strange round structure looks like it's leaning over the crowd of pedestrians walking underneath. But the structure is safe and sound with no chance of toppling over, since the base of the hotel was initially designed to hold up a building more than twice as tall as the hotel that currently stands. Due to funding cuts, the skyscraper's design was

## World Traveler

With Alyona Nevmerzhytska  
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### Mexico is 10,000 kilometers away, but charms with mix of historical & beach attractions

**Yucatan Peninsula, MEXICO** — This is one of the few countries open for those trying to escape a Ukrainian winter.

Like a magnet, Yucatan attracts tourists from all over the world to enjoy the Caribbean Sea, ancient colonial cities and archaeological sites including Maya villages and pyramids.

The peninsula includes three separate Mexican states: Yucatan, Quintana Roo and Campeche. Quintana Roo is probably the best known thanks to the tourism mega-destinations of Cancun, Tulum and Playa del Carmen.

But head just a couple of hours west and you hit colonial cities like Valladolid and Merida, the capital of Yucatan state, whose colonial architecture gives you a satisfying change of emotions. Neighboring Campeche state is home to mind-blowing Maya ruins heritage. This entire compact peninsula holds wonderful, varied and accessible travel surprises.

### What to see

Colonial cities — start with Valladolid, there is an obvious heritage of Spanish Empire — main square with the cathedral and little houses bring you back to the 18th century. There are many cenotes around Valladolid, where one can cool down and enjoy swimming in underground swimming pools which are naturally created. Entrance to cenotes costs 150 pesos.

The most famous cenote is called Ik Kill, located five kilometers away from Chichen Itza — the most famous and most visited Maya city is Chichen Itza with Temple of Kukulcan that dominates the center of the archaeological site, also impressive is the Great Ball Court, entrance to Chichen Itza costs around 500 pesos. It is not allowed to climb on the temple, one can simply get amazed and inspired by the architecture from Maya times.

Make sure you do not skip Merida, the Yucatan capital, very lively city with colonial architecture. Campeche state is full of archaeological sites — Uxmal is one of the most visited together with Chichen Itza and Calakmul which is deep in the jungles and the final 60 kilometers to the archaeological sites go through the jungles where tourists can spot butterflies, exotic birds like toucans, hummingbirds, animals like puma



# Delivery treats, discounts from Kyiv restaurants during lockdown

By Daria Shulzhenko

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It could have been a great start of the year for Kyiv restaurants: Holidays and cold winter weather push people to spend more time indoors, meet friends and families at favorite eateries, spending time with laughter and joy.

But the time has been overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic, again. Restaurants and other non-essential businesses throughout the country are set to remain closed from Jan. 8–24 to halt the spread of the virus during the flu season.

The lockdown allows restaurants to provide takeout and delivery, yet it's not enough. Revenues of local eateries have already fallen by a quarter in the first three days of the new lockdown, according to a recent survey by Poster, a Ukrainian tech firm that develops automatization systems for eateries and shops.

The Kyiv Post has made a list of places offering the best delivery and takeout options.

## Street food

Besides burgers and hot dogs, the capital is rich with a variety of unusual street options like Israeli pitas or German-style sandwiches with schnitzel.

**Pita Kyiv** offers rare street food. The restaurant makes several types of Israeli pita with fillings such as beef, falafel, kebab, plant-based meat and vegetables. There is also hummus, baked cauliflower and other Israeli treats. Pita Kyiv has reasonable prices, Hr 109–189 (\$4–7) for one dish, and offers free delivery within three kilometers. It is located between the Teatralna and Lva Tolstoho Square metro stations on Pushkinska Street.

**Itzel** is another must-try. It serves sandwiches with traditional German schnitzels made of pork, beef, chicken, fish or vegetarian alternatives for Hr 79–115 (\$2–4). Apart from sandwiches, Itzel offers hummus, salads, soups and side dishes, making great combos for a lunch break. The takeout and delivery are available daily from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m., with the latest orders taken before 9 p.m. Delivery in Kyiv is Hr 40 (over \$1), but the minimum price of the order is Hr 300 (\$10).

Those willing to try burgers with unusual flavors can order some at **Wurgerburger**. It offers six types of burgers with traditional beef, chicken and peanut butter, chicken and pineapple and two vegetarian options. French fries and drinks accompany the main course. The restaurant can transport orders by taxi, but it is also a great place to stop by when strolling around the capital's historic part near Zoloti Vorota.

**Pita Kyiv**. 39 Pushkinska St. Mon-Fri. 11 a.m.– 10 p.m. Sat-Sun. 11 a.m.– 11 p.m. Free delivery within 3 kilometers from the restaurant. Hr 40 for delivery within 3–5 kilometers from the restaurant. Delivery by taxi. Order at [www.pitakyiv.com](http://www.pitakyiv.com) or +38063739 4549

**Itzel**. 19/21 Nyzhniy Val St. 11 a.m.– 10 p.m. Delivery in Kyiv – Hr 40. Order at [www.itzel.com.ua](http://www.itzel.com.ua) or +38067475 0047



A chief of the T.C. Pizza restaurant tosses pizza dough on Jan 12, 2020 in Kyiv. The eatery is a recent addition to the local food scene that provides takeout and delivery during the Jan. 8-24 lockdown.

Volodymyr Petrov

**Wurgerburger**. 2 Olesia Honchara St. 11 a.m.– 10 p.m. Delivery by taxi. Order at [www.wurgerburger.com.ua](http://www.wurgerburger.com.ua) or +38050553 6440

## Asian cuisines

Asian cuisines might be the best pick for delivery because the nutritious and tasty meals aren't easily damaged on the way. Luckily, Kyiv's restaurant scene is booming with Chinese, Vietnamese and other Asian cuisines.

Recently-opened restaurant **China Ma** has already become a sensation in Kyiv. Not only do they serve delicious Chinese food, such as wonton and dim sum dumplings, spring rolls, hot and spicy soups and salads, but also have a special offer for delivery. China Ma delivers across Kyiv for free and doubles every dish ordered via their China Ma application (available for iOS and Android) until the end of January. Another advantage is China Ma's reasonable prices that range from Hr 100–280 (\$3–6) per dish.

Another recently-established restaurant **Hoo Lee Gang** serves Asian fried rice and noodles with various flavors and toppings, along with soups, salads that will please both vegetarians and meat eaters for Hr 75–230 (\$2–8). As for delivery, Hoo Lee Gang features a map on its website, which divides Kyiv into two zones – green one that covers downtown and Podil and orange for uptown neighborhoods – and offers free delivery for orders for over Hr 300 in the green zone and Hr 500 in the orange zone.

**Pho People** serves traditional Vietnamese pho bo soups, along with banh mi sandwiches, spring rolls, salads and other courses for around Hr 100–130 (\$3–4). It is located in Kyiv's heart, on Bohdana Khmelnytskoho Street, and available for takeout until 9 p.m. daily. They offer free delivery across Kyiv for orders over Hr 400 (\$14).

**China Ma**. 5B Heorhiiia Kirpy St. 11 a.m.– 11 p.m. Free delivery in Kyiv. Order by +38068263 8888

**Hoo Lee Gang**. 8 Antonovycha St. 12 p.m.– 10 p.m. Free delivery for orders over Hr 300–500 and Hr 40–60 for any order depending on location. Order at [www.hooleegang.com](http://www.hooleegang.com) or +38073666 2601

**Pho People**. 16/22 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St. Mon-Fri. 11 a.m.– 9 p.m. Sat-Sun. 12 p.m.– 9 p.m. Free delivery for orders over Hr 400 or Hr 40 for less. Order by +38073013 7713

## Pizza, pasta

There is nothing like enjoying fresh Italian pasta or pizza with a glass of decent wine on a cold winter day. To provide an opportunity for a meal like that, Italian restaurants deliver their treats all around Kyiv.

Podil resident **Titka Bella** (Aunt Bella in English) is an excellent choice for those who want to try delicious pizza and wine for reasonable prices. The restaurant serves pizza and pasta for all tastes and budgets – with meat, seafood, vegetables and cheese. There is also a variety of salads, bruschettas, main courses and desserts on Titka Bella's menu, as well as their house white and red wine. But what makes the restaurant the real deal during the lockdown is their free delivery across Podil and for orders over Hr 600 to any location.

A new player in the capital's restaurant industry, **T.C. Pizza**, offers round and square-shaped pizza with offbeat toppings such as pumpkin puree, broccoli and ricotta cheese, meatballs, mackerel and more, as well as sweet pizza with roasted bananas and chocolate, all for Hr 180–280 (\$6–10). Apart from pizza, they also offer salads, main courses and appetizers. Delivery from here costs Hr 40 within three kilometers. They also deliver to uptown neighborhoods by taxi.

**Titka Bella**. 1/2 Horyva St. 11 a.m.– 11 p.m. Free delivery within 2 kilometers for orders over Hr 300. Free delivery to other locations for orders over Hr 600. Order by +38063957 0009

**TC Pizza**. 15/3 Olesia Honchara St.

11 a.m.– 11 p.m. Hr 40 for delivery within 3 kilometers. Delivery by taxi to other locations. Order by +38063820 7505

## Vegan

Kyiv restaurants are not leaving out vegetarian and vegan gourmets.

**Das Grün** (Green in English) resembles a cafe somewhere in Berlin with its minimalistic design and menu. It serves four types of vegan shawarma with tofu, plant-based meat, eggplant or falafel, vegan fish and chips made of tofu, lentil soup and more courses, for Hr 100–130. Besides takeout, Das Grün delivers its dishes for free within three kilometers, as well as gives 50% discounts for delivery by taxi for orders over Hr 800 (\$28). And until the end of January, Das Grün adds a free bottle of Coca-Cola to each order.

Another option for those who follow a plant-based diet is recently-opened **Sky Garden**. The restaurant sells vegan breakfasts such as tofu omelet, chia seeds pudding, tofu pancakes and sandwiches. It also serves vegan soups including ramen and pho bo, burgers, hot-dogs and burritos along with tacos, spring rolls and noodles, for an average of Hr 120–160 per dish (\$4–5). Although the restaurant delivers mainly by taxi, it offers free delivery for orders over Hr 500.

**Das Grün**. 20 Illinska St. 10 a.m.– 10 p.m. Free delivery within 3. Delivery by taxi to other locations. 50% discount for delivery by taxi for orders over Hr 800. Order by +38097044 0244

**Sky Garden**. 2 Stanislavskoho St. 8 a.m.– 10 p.m. Free delivery for orders over Hr 500. Delivery by taxi. Order at +38098022 5252

## Breakfast, desserts

Kyiv cafes **Milk Bar** and **Honey**, famous for making some of the tastiest sweet treats in the city, offer both takeout and delivery of their numerous desserts and breakfasts.

Milk Bar delivers cakes, breakfasts

and main courses for Hr 25 within three kilometers, but asks to place orders at least a day prior. The chain of Honey cafes, on the other hand, delivers right away and offers free delivery within two kilometers.

On their breakfast menu, Milk Bar offers various sandwiches, avocado toasts, waffles, syrnyky (Ukrainian cottage cheese pancakes) and omelets, for Hr 160–300 (\$6–11). Their dessert menu includes chocolate and fruit cakes, pies, cheesecakes, cookies, puddings and more.

Honey makes bagels with salmon, turkey or tuna, avocado toasts, eggs Benedict, omelets and scrambled eggs, as well as croissants and oatmeal for Hr 105–245 (\$4–9). There are also mousse desserts, eclairs, pastry and cookies.

Those who prefer to start the morning with pancakes or syrnyky can order some at the **Pancakes** cafe. It offers a wide choice of the dish's variations: sweet pancakes with chocolate, Nutella, strawberries, cream and more, or savory ones with chicken, salmon, cheese and ham. The prices here are low, around Hr 50–80 (\$2–3) for a dish. Delivery in Kyiv downtown and Podil is Hr 50, with the minimum price of the order of Hr 150 (\$5).

**Milk Bar**. 16 Shota Rustaveli St. 8 Moskovska St. 9 a.m.– 10 p.m. Delivery – Hr 22 within 3 kilometers, Hr 40 within 5 kilometers, Hr 60 within 10 kilometers, Hr 150 for over 10 kilometers away. Order at [www.milkbar.com.ua](http://www.milkbar.com.ua) or +38044237 09 07

**Honey**. 19/21 Nyzhniy Val St. 20 Yaroslaviv Val St. Tsum (38 Khreshchatyk St.). 9 a.m.– 10 p.m. Free delivery within 2 kilometers and to any location for orders over Hr 700, Hr 90 – within 11 kilometers. Delivery outside Kyiv – Hr 150–250 depending on the destination. Order at [www.honeycafe.com.ua](http://www.honeycafe.com.ua) or +38067127 1921

**Pancakes**. 35 Nyzhniy Val St. 10 a.m.– 9 p.m. Delivery in downtown and Podil – Hr 50. Delivery by taxi to any location. Order at [www.pancakes-ukraine.com](http://www.pancakes-ukraine.com) or +38096633 9131. 🍩



## World Traveler

# While far from Ukraine, Mexico's charms are well worth the long trip

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and one can even hear howler monkeys roar. After active drive through ancient cities and sites, one can chill at the Bacalar Lagoon which is a long and narrow lake and during sunny days tourists can enjoy up to seven shades of turquoise in the lagoon.

**Money**

Mexican peso exchange rate to \$1 is 18.9–19.5 pesos; most locals speak only Spanish.

**Getting there**

Turkish Airlines fly to Cancun with the connection in Istanbul. Ticket costs around 900 dollars round trip.

Hotel prices — average price is \$50, accommodation in the peninsular is cheaper, on the coastline more expensive.

**Car rental**

Around \$350 per one week Visa — for those who have valid American visa the entrance is visa free

Locals offer 2 hours boat trips with the opportunity to swim in the water.

The final part of such an intense itinerary is relaxing time at the beach where one can relax at the white sand beaches of Riviera Maya.

**Riviera Maya**

Quintana Roo state is famous for the powdery white sand beaches of Tulum, Playa del Carmen and Cancun. All of these sites are different with its particular spirit and atmosphere. One common thing is the beautiful Caribbean Sea with big waves. Tulum beaches are full of eco bars and hotels, there are spots for working out on the beach, the atmosphere is active and healthy. The historic attractions in Tulum are Maya ruins, the highest and only one maya housing on the coastline of Caribbean Sea. Playa del Carmen is popular among young american tourists that come for party.

Cancun is probably the most known by its all inclusive big hotels which makes it the most famous among tourists.



Tourists takes photos and admire the Temple of Kukulcan that dominates the center of the archaeological site at the most famous and most visited Maya city Chichen Itza on Jan. 2, 2021.

**Islands**

Isla Mujeres and Cozumel are the closest islands near the coastline and tourists can take a ferry to get there, it takes around 30 minutes from the coastline and costs 300 pesos round trip per person. Isla Mujeres impresses with super clean pristine water and beaches, at Cozumel it is worth renting a scooter and driving to the west coast of the island, it is wild and natural.

**Food**

Not surprisingly seafood is very pop-

ular in Yucatan — shrimp cocktail is sold everywhere that's shrimp in tomato sauce with onions, coriander, lime and avocado. Guacamole can be found at every eatery, usually it is served with nachos. Also famous is ceviche which can be made from shrimp or any other mix of seafood, the main ingredients are mostly seafood, onion, tomato, avocado. Tourists can enjoy such exotic dishes as cactus salad and tacos — traditional Mexican dish of a small corn or wheat tortilla topped with a filling can be beef, pork, seafood or chicken.

Popular alcohol is tequila and mez-

cal, both are made from the heart of agave, should be drunk with lime and salt. Margarita cocktail is a tequila based and famous in Mexico, very often when you order one you will get an extra drink for free.

Almost at every hotel or eatery tourists can admire self portraits of Frida Kahlo, the most famous Mexican artist.

Mexico with its cultural heritage charms a lot of tourists and as it is three times larger than Ukraine, it definitely deserves many more visits in order to see and feel it to the fullest. 🇲🇽

## EMPLOYMENT / CV / TENDER

## Kyiv Post

UKRAINE'S GLOBAL VOICE

The Kyiv Post is looking for **a political reporter** to complement its team of journalists covering Ukraine's political life, government and reforms; the coronavirus pandemic; and Russia's war in the Donbas. It's a full-time job in the newspaper's office in Kyiv.

**Responsibilities:**

Pitching and writing stories for the Kyiv Post newspaper and website.

Breaking exclusive stories. Discovering the underlying trends driving Ukraine's political life and reporting on them.

Developing and maintaining a network of contacts in Ukraine's parliament, government and expert community.

**Requirements:**

Excellent command of written and spoken English. Fluency in Ukrainian and/or Russian languages.

Deep understanding of Ukraine's political life; background knowledge in Ukrainian politics.

Ability to write journalistic stories in English. Commitment to Western journalism standards and democratic values.

Experience in media or English-language writing is preferable.

For consideration, send a CV, three story ideas and a cover letter to deputy chief editor Olga Rudenko at [rudenko@kyivpost.com](mailto:rudenko@kyivpost.com).

## alinea

**Alinea International** is one of the Canada's leading international development organization. It executes projects for the Government of Canada, as well as the World Bank, United Nations, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and others.

In October 2019, Alinea International launched a new five-year project in Ukraine: **Support Ukraine's Reforms for Governance (SURGe)**. SURGe is a technical assistance project in Ukraine, funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by Alinea International Ltd.

**SURGe Project is looking for the following experts:**

for the *Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine*:

- *Expert on cooperation with the local communities in the sphere of education*

Deadline for applications: **January 25, 2021;**

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- *Senior Data Analyst.*

Deadline for applications: **January 29, 2021.**

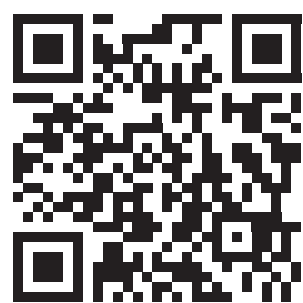
Please, send your applications to: [valeriias@alineainternational.com](mailto:valeriias@alineainternational.com).

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

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# Beauties or beasts? Kyiv's Soviet modernist architecture is all over

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quite literally cut in half.

It's easy to walk around the hotel's parking lot to appreciate the jenga tower of round slabs from all angles and even go inside, as the hotel is fully functioning and ready to provide anyone with a room for their visit to Kyiv.

The easiest way to reach Hotel Salute is from the Arsenalna metro station, which takes about five minutes walking.

## Arsenal plant

designed by: Mykola I. Lykholit  
1764  
address: 8 Moskovska St.  
closest metro: Arsenalna

The Arsenal plant is one of Kyiv's oldest and most famous factories. It was initially built in 1764 as a repair and production facility for the Imperial Russian Army. During the Cold War arms race, the plant developed dramatically, becoming an important manufacturer of military goods.

This tall structure is just a few-minute walk away from the world's deepest metro station, Arsenalna. It's hard to miss the structure's towering wall above the surrounding one-story buildings. The large square wall is full of hive-like windows for the worker bees on the job.

## Zhytniy market

designed by: Valentyn Shtolko, Olga Monina  
1974-1980  
address: 16 Verkhniy Val St.  
closest metro: Kontraktova

The Zhytniy market in Podil district is probably one of the most legendary markets in Kyiv.

It is just a four-minute walk away from the Kontraktova metro station, right along Verkhniy Val Street. The building stands tall with a beautiful swooping roof that curves downwards, with intricate metalwork patterns welded into the walls supporting the large glass windows that allow natural light into the market. The vast open space inside the building is packed with vendors, who even spill out to the street outside.

The second floor consists of metal beams that jut out to meet the top portion of the ceiling, complementing the overall design of this modernist creation. The ceiling that curves inward is covered in hexagonal indentations. The view from the second-floor balcony overlooks the entirety of the market and all its subsections. Once a month, there is a flea market held on the second floor, which can be the perfect timing to combine architectural sightseeing with shopping and meeting people.



Once considered one of the most innovative structures in the Soviet Union, Bus Depot #7 designed by Vladimir Zinkevich has been defunct since 2015. The sight is one of Kyiv's most extraordinary Soviet architecture creations.

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## Constitutional Court

Architects: Yanosh Vig, Mykola Levandovsky  
2001  
address: 14 Zhylianska St.  
closest metro: Olimpiiska

Just a three-minute walk away from the downtown metro station Olimpiiska is the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, a body making some of the country's most important decisions inside its massive, chunky building. It's contradictory architecture suits the court's reputation history full of scandals. The top half might look like someone took part of the Hotel Bellagio in Las Vegas and slapped it right against the bottom half of the court's building. Its main structure also resembles an open book.

Planned as a computer center, construction began in the 1980s but was not completed until 2001, a decade after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Given the court's outrageous decisions, the site is a regular spot for protests. Just across the street life buzzes near busy shops and restaurants.

## Starovokzalna

designed by: unknown  
1989  
address: the end of Starovokzalna Street  
closest metro: Vokzalna

Opened in 1989 as a tram stop, this modernist structure looks like someone put a moon base in the center of Kyiv. But instead of astronauts, it is full of vendors and people on their way to the new main train station, Vokzalna. The old building is at the end of the tram ring on Starovokzalna Street, where pedestrians can watch trams built in all sorts of decades roll by. The tracks and rickety noise add to the steampunk environment Starovokzalna presents.

There are more modernist designs in the back of the building that one can only really see if they stood on the train tracks themselves, but visitors can take a peek at the small footbridge that goes over the tracks on the way to the main train station.

The closest metro station is Vokzalna. But the easiest path may run through the center of Kyiv, passing the Kyiv Circus and Ukraine shopping mall, following the tracks like the yellow brick road.

## Vernadsky National Library

designed by: Vadym Hopkalo, Vadym Hrechyna, Valeriy Peskovskiy.  
1989  
address: 3 Holoziivskiy Ave.  
closest metro: Demiiivska

The Vernadsky National Library is also one of Kyiv's most recognizable modernist structures. It is the largest library in Ukraine in terms of volume and size, containing 15 million items.

The magnificent design of the exterior and interior architecture is very aesthetically pleasing. The structure can be seen in plenty of music videos including Korean boy band NCT U, British singer-songwriters

Paolo Nutini and Paloma Faith.

The inside of the building contains a mural, "Earth's Pain," with bright psychedelic colors and an equally psychedelic plot, exploring science's various ways to save life on Earth. The famous skylights throughout the building encompass everyone within its retro vibe. Even those who aren't students using the reading hall to prepare for exams, can sit and take a moment to appreciate this grand library.

## Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute

designed by: Volodymyr Lykhovodov, Viktor Sydorenko, Viktor Dohalyuk, Oleksandr Dumchuk, Oleksandr Zykov, Oleksandr Kryuchkov  
1988  
address: 37 Peremohy Ave.  
closest metro: Politekhnychnyi Instytut

Walking around the campus of the National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute" can take half a day. And it is well worth the time since there are several modernist buildings to see.

The ninth corpus of the institute resembles a fortress. The Culture and Arts Center entices with a huge mural portraying light and naked men running - a symbol of protons that move towards each other at high speed.

Not only can visitors enjoy walking around the outdoor campus, but they can look through the university's library. The interior design of its premises is just spectacular - architect Volodymyr Lykhovodov included an impressive atrium, stairs and halls with moving cabinets. Volodymyr Pasyvenko's murals can also be seen throughout the building.

## Cybernetics Faculty, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

designed by: Mykhailo Budilovsky, Vadym Ladny, Volodymyr Kolomiets  
1972-1980  
address: 4D Akademika Hlushkova Ave.  
closest metro: Vystavkovyi Tsent

There may be several reasons to travel to the remote Vystavkovyi Tsent metro station. There's the beautiful large Holoziivskiy national park to walk through, the VDNH exhibition center where the Soviet Union used to show off inventions and products that has now transformed into a family entertainment spot and there's the Cybernetics Faculty of Taras Shevchenko National University.

The most noticeable features include the four large Soviet murals that depict different stories. There's a large hand holding a book, sickle and hammer, people gathering and pointing in various directions and a large face with a "big brother is watching you" kind of eye.

The way the architects integrated their art and presented the campus' purpose, with a focus on mathematics, physics and cybernetics is present throughout. Carved equations and hieroglyphics fill the walls, murals and statues.

Exploring the whole campus feels like walking through a retro-futuristic 1980s movie set.

## Pozniaky residential area

designed by: various architects  
presumably 1990s  
closest metro: Pozniaky

For those that like to explore non-touristy spots, walking through the Pozniaky residential area might fit that bill. Located on the left bank of the Dnipro River, it's definitely more out of the way. But that extra effort will be rewarded with the various unique balconies seen on residential buildings. Some look like butterflies, others like space pods, and all of them come in different colors. The uniquely designed panels symmetrically stack on top of each other and stand out against the newer residential buildings that have crowded the area.

## Bus Depot #7

designed by: Vladimir Zinkevich  
1973  
address: 15 Boryspilska St.  
closest metro: Chervonyi Khutir

Out of all of the modernist locations on the list, this is the one for the most daring of travelers: Ukraine's giant abandoned space-age saucer. This extraordinary bus depot can house up to 700 vehicles that now sit in this graveyard of automobiles. The engineering is impressive, with the disc-shaped structure being the only one of its kind in the Soviet Union. Known as the "circus," the massive concrete roof is held by a single pillar in the center.

The bus station has been defunct since 2015, so there is no way to enter the actual building. Its interior can be seen in South Korean boy band NCT U's 2018 music video, "Boss".

The bus depot's future seems dim. Today, its roof appears worn and neglected, with numerous trees growing straight through it. The buses inside are full of rust and rot.

As nature continues to reclaim the structure, the chances of it falling apart increase. This hidden relic that was once considered the most innovative structure of its kind might eventually cease to exist. ☹️



Ukraine's Constitutional Court, designed by Yanosh Vig and Mykola Levandovsky, is one of Kyiv's remarkable Soviet architectural sights.