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EXPATS TO WATCH

- How foreigners have made a mark on Ukraine
- Expats who stand out
- Expats to watch in the future

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Foreign investors say renewable energy market closed to them

BY YURIY ONYSHKIV
ONYSHKIV@KYIVPOST.COM

Foreign investors in renewable energy are complaining that the sector is stacked against them in favor of a handful of domestic companies.

Peter Justin O'Brien, country manager for EuroCape, a wind power developer that is building a wind power station in Zaporizhya Oblast, says that "the playing field for foreign and domestic investors is not the same."

O'Brien and other investors say local renewable energy companies benefit from their government connections to access land, hook up to energy grids and qualify for green tariffs on favorable terms.

"It has the effect of closing the entire sector," O'Brien told the Kyiv Post in an Oct. 10 interview. The same view was expressed during a press conference the same day by representatives of European-Ukrainian Energy Agency, representing foreign investors working in the industry, including EuroCape.

Foreign developers are worried that Ukraine's parliament might next week adopt amendments to increase requirements that renewable energy developers use a share of domestic content when constructing their power plants, from the current 30 percent to 50 percent. If companies do not fulfill the local content requirement, they would not be able to qualify for green tariffs – high prices the government pays for electricity from renewable energy sources.

These amendments are co-authored by three pro-presidential Party of Regions' lawmakers, including Yulia Lyovochkina, the sister of Presidential Chief of Staff Serhiy Lyovochkin, and Yuriy Miroshnychenko, the president's representative in parliament. They did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

EuroCape's O'Brien says that it is really tough "when the rules of the game are being changed in the middle of the game." → 10

Political Punch



Vitali Klitschko greets supporters and hands out calendars in the Sumy Oblast city of Konotop on Oct. 9. (Oleksandr Kosarev)

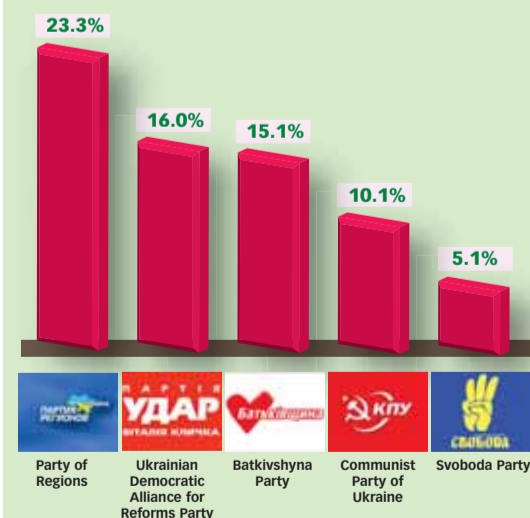
BY SVITLANA TUCHNYSKA
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KONOTOP, Ukraine – News of Vitali Klitschko, the world's boxing champion and an aspiring politician, coming to Konotop spread quickly through the northern Ukraine city of 90,000 residents.

At the railway station, taxi drivers lure people into their cabs with promises to "see Klitschko." A city bus driver asks a passenger sitting near him if he knows Klitschko is in town today.

The main square shut → 7

Polls show five parties likely to win seats in parliament



A late September nationwide poll found that opposition forces of Batkivshchyna and Vitali Klitschko's Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms will beat the pro-presidential Party of Region in the proportional vote. Here are the results of the poll conducted by the Democratic Initiatives Foundation and Kyiv International Institute of Sociology. A representative sample of 2,043 Ukrainians was polled. The result reflects the choice of those who have made a decision. The margin of error is 2.2 percent.

Hot Races

In The Oct. 28
Parliamentary Election

Plenty of choices in Kyiv's Obolon district

In addition to the 22 parties on the proportional list from which to choose, voters in the Obolon constituency will choose from a diverse field of 25 candidates. That's almost twice the national average of 13 contenders per constituency. → 16

Kyiv's Sviatoshyn: Native son vs. wealth

Born and raised in the capital's Sviatoshyn district, lawmaker Volodymyr Arieiev from Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna Party is facing candidates with deep pockets and successful political campaign track records. The former journalist is the acknowledged favorite, even though → 16

Lawmakers clash in Kyiv's Dnipro district

Although there are three lawmakers in this left bank Kyiv race, the real fight is between two of them. The United Opposition's candidate is veteran lawmaker and small business advocate Ksenya Lyapina. Lyapina was once ex-President Viktor Yushchenko's adviser when he was → 16

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Ukrainian journalists feel squeeze ahead of election

(REUTERS) For Natalia Sokolenko, an award-winning Ukrainian TV reporter, the last straw was when she was taken off covering the national political scene and demoted to reporting road accidents for the commercial news station where she had worked for 10 years.

Her career, she said, had been on a slide since she lobbed a provocative question at President Viktor Yanukovich and fought attempts by politicians and businessmen to buy screen time at her STB channel on the sly.

With a parliamentary election due on Oct. 28, journalists complain of increased pressure on independent newspapers and key TV news outlets from the authorities and their allies.

If Yanukovich's Regions Party and its partners hold on to their majority as expected, they fear the screws will only tighten in a country due to preside over the regional security, development and democracy promotion body, OSCE, from January.

Cases like Sokolenko's highlight the weak state of the media in Ukraine half way through Yanukovich's five years as president and 20 years after the former Soviet republic won independence.

After six months covering the traffic and highways beat, 37-year-old Sokolenko quit. "I thought of everything I had achieved. I thought of my youth and my talent. Here I was covering road accidents. So I left," she said.

Several weeks on she is still without a job in mainstream journalism, and



Journalists in Kyiv protest near Ukraine's parliament building against the adoption of the libel law on Oct. 1. With a parliamentary election due on Oct. 28, journalists complain of increased pressure on independent newspapers and key TV news outlets (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

has stepped up her campaign for media rights.

TVi, one of the few stations which criticises the government, says the government is putting pressure on cable company providers which distribute it.

Proposed legislation to make libel a jailable offense has caused alarm in media circles. A draft law has been dropped after an outcry, though opposition leaders warn it could return in another form after the election.

And there is also an enemy within: journalists who censor their own news items under pressure from politicians or make gratuitous mention of politicians in them in return for payment.

Politicians and big business groups, media watchdogs say, are going to ever greater lengths to persuade media executives to publish paid-for "news" or screen time to massage their candidates' image as election day approaches.

Many commentators foresee even greater state control of media if, as expected, Yanukovich's Party of the Regions consolidates its grip on the 450-seat parliament this month.

"I am afraid that after the parliamentary election there will be a tightening of the screws to purge information space," said Iryna Bekeshkina, director of the Democratic Initiative Foundation think-tank.

Yanukovich's administration denies this and says he is committed to preventing any pressure being exerted on the media, especially in the run-up to the election.

Gongadze case

Media freedom has played a pivotal role in post-Soviet Ukraine since the murder of opposition journalist Georgiy Gongadze in 2000 sparked protests which marked a turning point in former President Leonid Kuchma's 10-year-rule.

The leadership of the 2004 Orange Revolution highlighted it in the fight for power they won after street protests and Orange leader Viktor Yushchenko's presidency brought unprecedented freedom - often to his own discomfort.

Yushchenko's clashes with prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, his unsuccessful relations with Russia, his personal foibles and the exotic lifestyle of his son all became fair game.

All that changed when Yanukovich came to power in 2010. There are, for instance, now no satirical TV programmes poking fun at the leadership as they did during the Yushchenko years.

Media criticism of Yanukovich is muted to say the least.

Sokolenko, who won an award for Ukraine's best TV reporter in 2009, says her troubles began in July 2011 when at a news conference given by Yanukovich she alleged that his son, Viktor, who is a deputy, had proxy votes on his behalf in parliament.

"I asked him why he allowed his son to violate the Constitution like this. He got angry and said that he hoped if I had children they would be as good as his," Sokolenko said.

After that, and as she became

increasingly involved in campaigning for press rights, she gradually lost access to government and presidential briefings - and began the slide down to the traffic and highways beat.

As in most other ex-Soviet republics, television is far and away the main provider of news for the 46 million population, but there is no independent public TV channel and almost all TV stations have a wealthy backer.

TVi station saw the writing on the wall when it was raided by the tax police - a classic harassment tactic in post-Soviet societies.

The State Tax Service said it had launched a criminal case against TVi's chief executive, Mykola Knyazhitsky, saying the channel had evaded more than three million hryvnias (\$375,000) in value-added tax payments.

Though the tax evasion case was dropped, the station says local cable companies have come under pressure either to give TVi up or move it to more expensive packages, putting it beyond the means of many of its traditional viewers.

The station's audience has correspondingly slumped from 13 million to nine million, Knyazhitsky said.

Paid-for 'news'

Yanukovich's Regions and its allies, backed by wealthy industrialists and businessmen, face a United Opposition bloc, including the Batkivshchyna (Fatherland) party of jailed former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, and the UDAR (Punch) Party of →17



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Items for sale will include used household appliances, furniture, rugs, office furniture, computers, construction materials and miscellaneous equipment. All items are for sale on an "as-is, where-is" basis.

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Leaders Talk

Sophie Oliphant - Chief Executive Officer of 3M Ukraine

Can we start with an introduction of yourself and an overview of your company? What is your company's strategic positioning on Ukraine's market?

I am a long time 3M-er. I have worked in the company for over 12 years, starting as a marketer and having very varied roles over the years. Yet, 12 years is considered a relatively short tenure in our company, where people often retire after 30, 35 and even 40 years of service. My previous assignments were mainly in Western European subsidiaries in European or Central Eastern European regional roles.

Last year, I was asked to take charge of 3M Ukraine. This was unexpected but exciting. I knew the region very well and I spoke the language but had not worked continuously in Central and Eastern Europe, if I do not count numerous business trips in my previous roles.

3M is an innovative company, in a true sense of the word. Behind 3M brand, there are many famous inventions, which changed the world, starting from light reflecting films which are used for street signs and not finished with Littmann™ stethoscope. We have products and technologies for virtually every industry.

The beauty of 3M is that regardless of the weight of a certain industry as a % of GDP in any given country, we can offer thousands of products helping improve processes anywhere. In Ukraine we are representing all of 3M's businesses but not necessarily all products, where opportunities have not yet been created. Our focus is mainly heavy industry such as mining and metallurgy, machine-building and energy sector as well as healthcare.

What key market drivers are positively impacting your business? What are the main challenges for you to overcome?

The political and economic outlook is unpredictable today in Ukraine. This creates certain challenges in business planning. The industrial output has a direct impact on some of our businesses. On the other hand, if safety standards are increasing at Ukrainian companies, which they are, is positively impacting our business. The UAH devaluation will help the Ukrainian industry, making exports cheaper, but is going to be tough on consumer businesses.

A diversified company like 3M is not dependent on a single market factor. The biggest challenge usually is prioritization of resources for new opportunities, as there are many, even in uncertain times.

Have you launched any new initiatives to combat the current challenges?

We recently completed a complete overhaul of our data to better understand our market, to quantify and assess

our opportunities on complex criteria based on market reality as well as future potential. Prioritization entailed assessing if a project is real, if we can win, and if it is worth it. We have created a detailed plan for the next 3-5 years. We re-assessed our portfolio and identified areas to invest in as well as areas to just maintain. This was a very useful exercise for the whole company.

We took this very seriously and attracted our European experts to aid us with this. It took many months but we now know which way we are going: we are focusing on operational excellence, productivity improvement and rational spending.

How do your latest trading/figures compare to the same period last year? What do you attribute the upturn/downturn to?

Core business continues to grow double-digit. The trend is still going up. However, some large projects are more volatile. Infrastructure projects, for instance such as pipeline rehabilitation or road construction and modernization, depend on the state budget spending.

If you look ahead five years, how do you see the future of 3M Ukraine?

The future is bright. It depends, however, on many reforms which still need to be implemented in the country, whether it is standards for safety, tax, lowering corruption. Ukraine's ability to trade actively with its neighbors and to increase exports is vital for the future.

It very much depends on the economy and the world's renewed confidence in Ukraine. Building manufacturing base is not yet in our plans as the scale is not there yet for our products. However, we are firmly committed to this country and will continue to invest and provide employment and education opportunities to talented Ukrainians.

What has been the most important management lesson you have learned?

Integrity, equity and openness are my main principles. The management needs to set an example. The recent history of Ukraine has led to forming a very hierarchical society with management culture very different from that in the west. In many local companies, management cannot be challenged; people expect very precise instructions, etc. Of course, progressive local companies are changing this and are setting some excellent examples.

We, on our part, are actively changing that and moving to a culture where people take full ownership and responsibility, show initiative, are self-motivated. It will take time but this is the only thing that will transform this society into a competitive and productive one.



When focus on the success of a business model you run - is it marketing or sales strategies that matters most?

One does not go without the other. We sell sophisticated products that often address our customer's unarticulated needs. These, often not-so-obvious benefits are not easy to communicate. So marketing and sales work hand-in-and to correctly deliver the message to customers and expand our audience. If a sales representative can visit 5 accounts a day, a marketing program can reach thousands. We encourage marketers to spend up to 20% of their time in the field, working with customers, to better understand their needs. Once we reach the awareness and use, we achieve our ultimate goal to delight the customer. This is an organic process.

Naturally, Ukraine is a smaller subsidiary compared to even regional giants such as Russia, Poland and Turkey. We are a younger subsidiary and have access to the best practices of our older and larger siblings. On one hand, the information and support from the corporation is abundant, which is a massive benefit.

On the other hand we have to be effective and creative in our strategy and tactics, in order to deliver outstanding results with available resources.

How would you describe 3M's approach to being innovative? Is it a stimulus for growth and success?

Innovation is what defines 3M. It is at the heart of the company. 1/3 of our annual sales should come from the products which were launched within the last 5 years. Innovation is very dynamic. Even in Ukraine, every year, we launch hundreds of new products every year.

MEP Libor ROUČEK:

What is the model of cooperation with Ukraine we'd like to see?



For the Ukrainian business community, and not only for the business community, but for the entire country as well, it's extremely important to have close commercial, business and economic relations with the outside world. With regard to the European Union ... what are the benefits?

It's the investment, and above all I think it's the know-how. I mean the know-how of how

to organize a business and how to organize a company. I'm Czech - not German or French - and I know how beneficial it was for the Czechs, Slovaks, Poles and Hungarians to attract companies from Europe and from all over the world. That's because those companies didn't just bring in money and capital, but more importantly they contributed know-how, namely, the knowledge of how to organize and manage companies and economies.

In my opinion, the abovementioned innovations are of great importance to Ukraine. Ukraine needs economic growth, not just to achieve economic progress, but also for social prosperity, and to increase the country's standard of living.

That's the most important thing when strengthening commercial and business ties with the European Union.

Of course, the Association Agreement doesn't mean Ukraine is joining the Eurozone. We can see there are difficulties within the Eurozone, because at the very beginning there were certain requirements and specific conditions which, however, were not properly fulfilled by several countries. In particular, this concerns Greece and the other countries that are facing problems that affect the entire Eurozone. But Ukraine is not yet joining the Eurozone. So it's up to the EU to sort out the issues, and I do believe we'll manage to resolve them.

What is important to understand is that even without the Eurozone, there will be certain parts of Europe, some states, which will be much more competitive and more developed than the rest. If we take our car

industry, e.g. in Germany and France, and by the way, also in the Czech Republic, we see that they're world leaders in terms of development. In the long run, these countries have produced the highest quality [products]. That's why, whether we have the Eurozone or not, the knowledge, the know-how, you know, the engineers, the designers and all the other professionals, will be still there. In my view, that's exactly the kind of knowledge Ukraine needs.

Moreover, I recently visited Uzhgorod in order to check out the car manufacture Skoda, which is assembling cars in Uzhgorod for the Ukrainian market. Beyond all doubt, this car company has big plans and is eager to expand.

What I'm trying to explain is that this is exactly the model of cooperation with Ukraine we'd like to see. That's because such expansions mean more jobs for Ukrainian specialists.

Libor ROUČEK is a Vice-Chair of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

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Editorials

Carpetchbaggers

One reason why members of Ukraine's parliament aren't held accountable to voters is they don't have to face them in a home constituency -- ever. In 2006 and 2007, lawmakers got elected on closed party lists that deprived voters of direct representation from a geographic district.

And once the members of parliament were sworn in, they usually forgot their hometowns and ended up living fulltime in Kyiv.

Now this year, as in 2002, half of parliament's 450 seats will go to single-mandate districts. Due to the nation's highly centralized government, where little decision-making power is allotted to regional and local governments, citizens need their representative in Kyiv. Having election districts requires candidates to devote some time and resources to get elected there. One would think this means listening to voters and trying to address their needs instead of handing out cash and free food staples every five-year election cycle.

Unfortunately, a minimum residency period isn't required to run in a particular district, meaning, outside candidates who have no connection to a district or its voters can come in, throw cash around, and spend another five years in Kyiv without having to see their constituents.

In addition to a residency requirement, lawmakers should be compelled to spend time in their home districts when parliament isn't in session for the obvious reason of serving their constituents.

They should devote time online and in person to making themselves available to the people who they're supposed to represent. In the end, voters have the final say.

The public in a district will ultimately pass judgment on whether or not they are happy with where their representatives actually live. Will it be somebody with direct ties to a community, like a lawyer or community organizer, or a fly-in, fly-out millionaire businessman who couldn't name three streets in a particular town and moves in another district in the next election cycle?

Power trip

Heaven help us if the Kyiv Post's "crime" had been something more than linguistic -- publishing online a bad English-language translation -- and doing so a full two days before the prosecutor published his own bad English-language translation.

But such was the unpleasant situation the newspaper found itself last week involving Deputy Prosecutor General Renat Kuzmin's Oct. 3 open letter to the U.S. Congress, written in Russian.

Rather than alert us to their preferred English-language translation (published on page 5 and posted on the General Prosecutor's Office website on Oct. 5), Kuzmin opted to call in chief editor Brian Bonner to his office on Oct. 6. There, Kuzmin said that he thought the newspaper intentionally tried to damage his reputation by publishing the faulty translation online. We assured him that we had no such intention. Nor do we think a bad translation can damage anybody's reputation. He said he was contemplating legal action, but quickly softened his demands to an apology and correction. We did so because we should have edited the translation more closely, labeled it as an unofficial translation and asked the prosecutor for a better version. Others think we did nothing wrong at all -- that it was important to quickly report the news that a powerful public figure was writing an open letter to the American Congress.

This is the same Congress whose Senate, after all, on Sept. 22 unanimously held out the prospect of sanctions against Ukrainian officials responsible for the imprisonment of ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and others in cases that the West considers to be political persecutions. If any sanctions were applied against Ukrainian officials by the West for these cases, Kuzmin would be high on the list.

The larger issue, however, is that no one stands a chance in Ukraine's barbaric criminal justice system that Kuzmin represents. It appears that the General Prosecutor's Office decides everything -- guilt, innocence, who goes to jail and for how long, who doesn't, what cases are opened and closed, which innocent enemies get hounded and which guilty friends go free.

Such a Kafkaesque nightmare that Ukrainians face is a byproduct of a judicial system that is highly politicized -- from the appointment of judges to top prosecutors. Jury trials, a final line of defense against excessive state authority, are non-existent. Due process and the presumption of innocence are absent in a secretive pre-trial system that allows suspects to be jailed indefinitely and that permits years to go by before any trial takes place.

Everyone who runs roughshod in this environment insists that the judiciary and prosecutors act independently and in the public's interest. Nonsense. This system has nothing in common with and none of the safeguards found in the more civilized West. No one has faith in a criminal justice system that torments the powerless while failing to get to the bottom of such cases as the Georgiy Gongadze murder, the Melnychenko tapes, the poisoning of Viktor Yushchenko, the crimes of the Leonid Kuchma era, the rigging of the 2004 presidential election...and on and on.

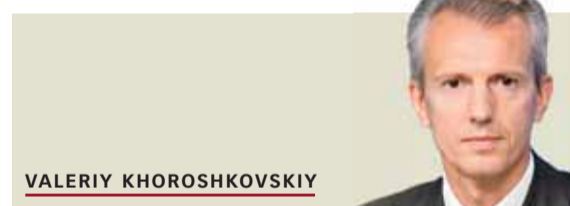
That's it exactly!
'Dear US Congress. Please forgive the inadequacies of our leaders! Sincerely, the Ukrainian people.'

If Kuzmin can write to them, so can we!

NEWS ITEM: On Oct. 3, Ukrainian Deputy Prosecutor General Renat Kuzmin sent an open letter to the U.S. Congress in Russian. An unofficial English-language translation quickly circulated and got published online by the Kyiv Post the same day. Kuzmin didn't take kindly to the error-filled translation. On Oct. 6, Kuzmin demanded and received an apology from the Kyiv Post. Kuzmin's representatives released their own English-language translation only on Oct. 5. It is published word-for-word on page 5, with no changes, also a condition requested by Kuzmin's aide. Readers will note that the official translation also contains errors. Complete accuracy is sometimes a casualty of bilingual communication.



Ukraine moving ahead with European integration, despite reports of frozen relationship



VALERIY KHOROSHKOVSKIY

Elections are a good time to sum up the achievements of the past and make plans for the future. I am not taking part in elections, but October parliamentary election coincided with half a year since I took office as first deputy prime minister. Therefore it's a good time to share my own assessment of how far we have gone with the European integration, which is a key task set for me by the president.

The European integration has been too often regarded a hostage of the so-called "selective justice" cases. Meanwhile, a lot of work that has been done to implement Ukraine's commitments to the European integration process has been very often just ignored by foreign or internal observers.

Just like about anything in life, the process of Ukraine's EU integration is not pure black or white. There is progress recognized by our European partners, and there are shortcomings.

I would like to look at them in more detail.

Progress towards a visa free regime

Visa free regime with the EU is of huge priority for too many Ukrainians. Therefore I am proud that today we are about to finalize implementation of the first part one of the EU visa liberalization action plan for Ukraine. Last week two key pieces of legislation were passed by the Rada, including complex regulation for introduction of biometric passports. The ongoing heated debate around this issue proves that there is a strong need for modern identity documents in our society. The relevant law will allow us to make a decisive step in this direction. However, further improvements will be needed, too.

Amendments to the laws on refugees and persons in need of subsidiary or temporary protection were also adopted. The procedure for registration of residence and temporary residence of individuals in Ukraine has been amended. In 2012, a number of laws was adopted that facilitate migration

and protection of refugees. Actions in combating human trafficking have been taken, and a state social program on countering illicit human trafficking was adopted for the period of 2012-2015.

I expect that now the EU will prepare a report on Ukraine's achievements in this area, and hope that next year we will successfully implement these laws, enabling introduction of a visa-free regime for Ukrainians.

Association with EU

Another big achievement in EU - Ukraine relations in 2012 is initialing of the association agreement with the EU on March 30; verification of all details of the free trade agreement was completed by July 20.

The agreement is important from different points of view, but I would like to mention two specific aspects. First of all, the Association Agreement itself is an instrument to strengthen European values in Ukraine. We might not be a perfect democracy, but it is only practice, everyday practice which makes it perfect. Movement in the right direction with the right norms and regulations as well as benchmarks can help Ukraine to come closer to the best practices. Encouragement, not discouragement can make a real difference needed by our society and our friends abroad.

Another aspect is a deep and comprehensive free trade area, which I assess as a "point of no return" for the European integration not only for Ukraine, but for the whole of region. In the time of economic and financial difficulties the DCFTA is a chance for both -- the EU and Ukraine.

Upcoming elections, along with new legislation that moves us closer to the European norms, especially in the field of judiciary, hopefully will generate a push needed for signing the Association Agreement.

Closer ties with EU

European integration is a huge driving force for reform. For example, the government on Sept. 3 approved a concept for public finances management reform, which will bring vital changes in public procurements and help fight corruption. At our request, last month the Constitutional Assembly approved draft law on changes to the Constitution concerning the reform of the Accounting chamber, the parliament's budget control body. It helps bring → 18

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Renat Kuzmin's Oct. 3 letter to US Congress seeking cooperation

VOX
populi

WITH
YURIY ONYSHKIV



Who is better for Ukraine as U.S. president – Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?



Taras Chornovil,
independent
lawmaker
"For [President Viktor] Yanukovich's Ukraine, Obama would be a

better choice, because he does not care what is going on in Ukraine. He removed Ukraine from his priorities. For Ukraine in general, Romney is more preferable, because after the Iran issue the next thing on his agenda is Russia and after that, the situation with human rights, including, in the post-Soviet countries. If he does not get involved into a war with Iran, he would pressure both Russia and Yanukovich."



Valeriy Bevz,
59,
Communist
Party law-
maker
"I consider myself a democrat and I think that Romney

is more aggressive compared to Obama. Therefore, I think that Obama is more suitable [for Ukraine]."



Vasyl Kravchuk,
44, *Batkivshchyna-ByUT* faction
"The most important thing for us is that the U.S. and the EU

keep their current position regarding undemocratic developments in Ukraine. I think that the U.S. policy favoring more democracy in Ukraine will not change regardless of who wins presidential race in the U.S."



Mustafa Dzhemilev,
68, *Our Ukraine Self Defense* faction law-
maker
"I wish Obama paid more attention to Ukraine...But

if I were an American I would vote for Romney. Republicans have always had clear-cut position. I think that it would be better for Ukraine if Romney became the next U.S. president."



Yaroslav Sukhyy,
61, *Party of Regions* faction law-
maker
"It's not the president who decides on domestic and foreign

policy, but huge industrial groups. Therefore, there would be no difference for Ukraine who wins – Obama or Romney."

Editor's Note: On Oct. 3, the Kyiv Post published online an unofficial English-language translation of Ukraine's Deputy Prosecutor General Renat Kuzmin's open letter to the U.S. Congress, written in Russian. At Kuzmin's request, the Kyiv Post published his preferred English-language version online on Oct. 6 and is doing so in print below. The text is unedited and appears as it was posted on the General Prosecutor Office's website on Oct. 5.

Dear Members of Congress!

My name is Renat Kuzmin, I am the citizen of Ukraine, Doctor of Laws, Professor at the National Academy of Prosecution of Ukraine, Deputy Prosecutor General of Ukraine. Father of two children. Christian.

My appeal to You is caused by the United States Senate's adopting resolution on Ukraine. [Editor's Note: See *Kyiv Post* for full text of US Senate resolution under headline "Senate: US should punish those responsible for Tymoshenko's imprisonment," <http://www.kyivpost.com/opinion/op-ed/us-senate-resolution-calls-for-release-of-tymoshenko-313343.html>]. The basis to this resolution was the situation with Julia Tymoshenko in Ukraine, which, from my point of view, was not adequately received by some American politicians. The basis to this involuntary errancy is insufficient awareness and sidedness of evaluations, which were formed by party in interest.

The matter is about Julia Tymoshenko's case, with respect to whom Ukrainian investigators are inquiring into cases upon the matter of her committing serious crimes.

I am addressing to You as a person, who craves for the citizens of Ukraine to live in the democratic country. I dream about Ukraine, in which the criterion for justice and basis for social interrelations is Law. I also dream about Ukraine, in which Law is equally fair to all the citizens, including those, who represent my Motherland at the highest level.

Our country got its independence 20 years ago, having eliminated the Soviet totalitarian system oppression. We are building civil society for free people. We are facing many obstacles and challenges on our way, but we are heading insistently to our goal. The United States of America set the example for Ukraine as the Great Country, which has experience, that is beyond price, for establishing democratic institutions. We are learning from You.

I am led by patriotism and responsibility to Ukrainian nation. I am deeply convinced, that the adopted resolution on Ukraine could be considered fair neither to our young state nor to all of its citizens.

The interested in this resolution party, representing Julia Tymoshenko, has brought Senate under delusion, providing specially selected and bias information, which was based only on emotions, without taking into consideration the actual facts. The other party had no opportunity to proffer its arguments. Not being provided with the precise and reliable information, it is rather difficult to distinguish the truth.

By adopting this resolution, Senate demanded that Ukraine should terminate its criminal prosecution of Julia Tymoshenko, including the case of organising and financing assassination of Ukrainian Parliament Member and other three absolutely innocent people.

There may not be many truths, there is only one, and in the case of Mrs. Tymoshenko the investigators are establishing the truth. The claim to terminate seeking for the truth in the case of murdering four people, voiced in Senate, caused bewilderment and disappointment, expressed by majority in our society. Do the American authorities wish to hinder establishing the truth through posing threats and ultimatums, acting from the position of strength?

According to Christian Saint: "God appears not in power, but in truth". And the task for prosecutor is to establish it, not attempting to hide it from the world community, regardless of how unpleasant or horrific it might be.

I may not imagine, that the U.S. Senate could demand that an American prosecutor should terminate investigation of mass murdering the citizens on



Ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko



Deputy General Prosecutor Renat Kuzmin

→ "By adopting this resolution, Senate demanded that Ukraine should terminate its criminal prosecution of Julia Tymoshenko, including the case of organising and financing assassination of Ukrainian Parliament Member and other three absolutely innocent people."

– Renat Kuzmin to US Congress

September, 11, 2001 only due to prosecutor's testing whether an influential oppositional politician is involved in this terrible crime. I may not imagine, that the U.S. Senate could demand that Sweden should terminate criminal case upon the matter of murdering Prime Minister Olof Palme for analogous reasons. Senate would uniquely not terminate searching for Al-Qaeda leaders. I do not understand for what reason Senate recommends Ukraine to terminate investigation of murdering four people.

General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine within the period of 2011-2012 appealed to Department of Justice and State Department of the USA more than 20 times in order to receive assistance in interviewing former Prime Minister of Ukraine Pavel Lazarenko, who claimed about his readiness to bear testimony to Ukrainian investigators. In fact, we never received a response. We had no opportunity to receive important testimony about murders in Ukraine.

It might be, that the resolution of Senate is the answer to Ukraine's efforts in searching for murderers of influential politician, his wife and two innocent people? Can this resolution possibly mean, that the person, having reached the high governmental level of authority, is extrajudicial?

How would an American prosecutor act in case of Ukrainian Parliament demanding that one should terminate the penal action in the case of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko, accusing the USA of politically motivated justice? I shall remind, that in accordance with American Court verdict, he is serving his ten-year sentence in Californian prison.

I am ready to speak in front of You in Congress. I am also ready to provide all the documents upon this matter. I am ready to speak to American media in order to tell the truth. I will be glad if You hear

me. My only motivation is my desire to convey my position, so You would know the truth. According to former American President of the USA : "Law and one are always a majority".

There is no doubt, that the termination of criminal case concerning the matter of murdering four people, is a great sin in face of God and people. By permitting it occur, we will commit another crime, showing the new generation, that the politician, who has the powers, may with impunity act illegally, and even murder people.

The dramatic effect of the situation, which was created by Julia Tymoshenko's associates artificially, should not obscure authentic documentary facts and must not permit us compromise with crime.

I am fully persuaded, that You were not provided with sufficient information upon the matter of Julia Tymoshenko having inflicted an irretrievable damage to Ukraine, which affected moral state of the whole nation. Primarily, we wish that the fair trial will bring an answer to the question whether a prosecutor or a lawyer was more convincing. We believe, that this decision should not be made by Senate, to which Ukrainians express as much respect and trust, as Americans.

Dear Members of Congress, I am asking for your accepting my open letter, as if I asked to accept thoughts of a person, who believes in Higher Justice. I hope, that You will be led by it while adopting resolution in this hard case. I also believe, that my letter will serve You reverting to the resolution on Ukraine, having obtained the facts.

I wish You and Your country further prosperity and success on the way of preserving peace and stability on our planet.

Yours Sincerely,
Renat Kuzmin

Ukraine inches forward on cleaner, affordable energy

BY YURIY ONYSHKIV
ONYSHKIV@KYIVPOST.COM

A handful of alternative energy investment projects unveiled in recent weeks are providing a glimmer of hope that Ukraine's fragile economy may someday run on cleaner, more efficient power.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development announced on Oct. 8 that it would provide 5.7 million euros in financing for a 10 million euro solar energy plant that is being developed in Vinnytsia Oblast by Rengy Development.

With a planned capacity of 4.5 megawatts, the project is tiny compared to the 270 megawatts solar power capacity installed in recent years by Activ Solar, a company which has been linked by documents and reports to National Security and Defense Council chief Andriy Klyuyev. But it is still significant, as it represents the first solar power investment by the EBRD in Ukraine.

News about the EBRD-backed project came days after DTEK unveiled the 60 megawatt Botievo Wind Power Plant, describing it as the largest in Ukraine wind-based electricity generator in Ukraine thus far.

DTEK is the energy holding of Rinat Akhmetov, Ukraine's richest billionaire. Already controlling nearly all of Ukraine's thermoelectric generation market, the company said it planned on boosting capacity of the Zaporizhzhya-based wind power plant to 110 megawatts by 2013.

"The development of alternative energy is the overall strategy for developing our energy," President Viktor Yanukovich said on Oct. 4 while visiting Botievo plant of pro-presidential Party of Regions ally Akhmetov. "For us, such steps are very important, from the standpoint of modernizing our country, specifically with alternative energy resources."

In late September, Eastern Investment Group announced it would this autumn launch operation of its first biofuel boiler at a 6 megawatt heat-and-power plant in the village of Ivankiv, Kyiv Oblast. By March of next year, new



Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich (R) and Party of Regions ally Rinat Akhmetov (C) during an Oct. 4 visit to a Zaporizhzhya wind power station launched by Akhmetov. Already controlling nearly half of Ukraine's coal, ore mining, steel, thermoelectric generation and most of electricity exports, DTEK now has its sights on becoming a major alternative energy producer. (Courtesy of www.president.gov.ua)

boilers would be added boosting total capacity to 18 megawatts.

While none of the projects are themselves large enough to make a major impact, they are the latest signs that the nation is slowly, yet gradually chiseling away at heavy dependence on expensive Russian natural gas imports and dirty domestic fossil fuel-based power, such as coal-burning thermoelectric generation.

Dmytro Marunych, director of Kyiv-based Institute for Energy Studies, said the projects are themselves "tiny," when compared to Ukraine's current energy production and import needs.

Just several years ago the country had nearly no renewable energy generating capacities. If Ukraine continues to attract alternative energy investments at the current rate, it will expand its share of "renewable energy sources in the country's energy balance from the current one percent to 4-7 percent by 2020, and up to 10 percent in 2030," Marunych said.

A faster switch over is not possible,

according to Marunych, with the current high levels of bureaucratic barriers and cronyism at play.

Some foreign investors that have expressed interest in exploring alternative energy projects in Ukraine say they are not on equal footing with companies co-owned by oligarchs and those with close ties to government officials. Unlike Activ Solar and other companies, foreign investors say they do not have equal access to arrangements that offer duty-free imports on technology that need to be brought into the country, or so-called green tariffs in which the government agrees to buy electricity from cleaner energy producers at higher prices.

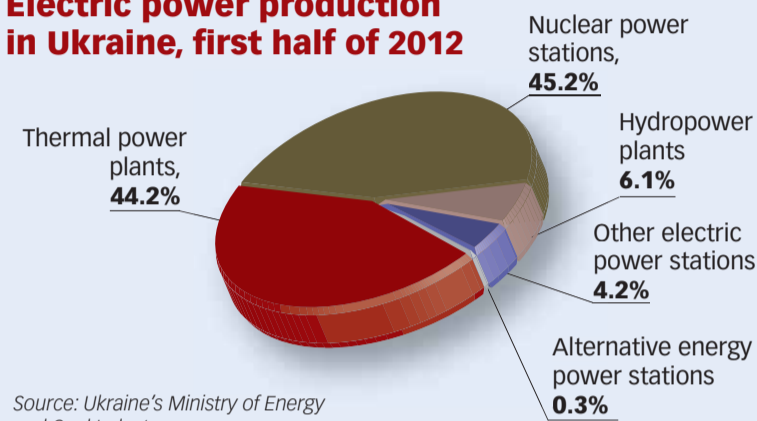
While visiting Akhmetov's Botievo plant, Yanukovich stressed that "these are only the first steps," adding that government would work to help support such investments.

But Volodymyr Omelchenko, energy analyst at Kyiv-based Razumkov Center think tank, said foreign investors will most likely not be treated equally in

Ukraine's high hopes for alternative energy

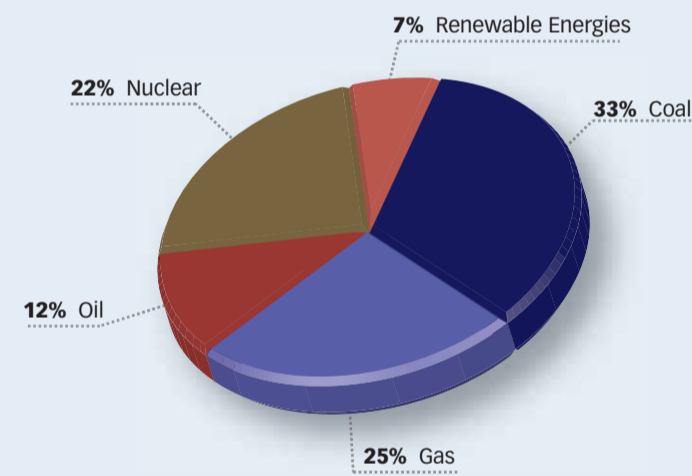
The nation now fills most of its energy needs from coal-burning and thermo-electric power generators, nuclear power plants, natural gas and oil. Less than 1 percent of Ukraine's economy is currently powered up by cleaner and potentially less expensive alternative energy resources. But experts say the right government policies could lure in investments which could, in turn, increase this number to 7 percent by 2020.

Electric power production in Ukraine, first half of 2012



Source: Ukraine's Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry

Ukraine's Possible Energy Supply by Source, 2020



Source: The World Bank, International Finance Corporation, Swiss Confederation

Ukraine as local businesses that are close to the government.

"Let's hope for the best, but the priority is given to businessmen that are close to the authorities," he said. "Also,

the poor investment climate scares off true foreign investors."

Kyiv Post staff writer Yuriy Onyshkiv can be reached at onyshkiv@kyivpost.com.

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Klitschko packs a punch in polls

→ 1 down for traffic as thousands of people gather, with more watching from balconies. Heads pop out of windows in nearby buildings.

As people cheer, shout and applaud, Klitschko appears on stage, dressed in jeans, shirt and simple jacket. After a short speech, he goes off stage to shake people's hands and is immediately devoured by the pressing crowd and thousands seeking an autograph or simply just to touch their idol.

This scene is common wherever Klitschko goes as he tours the country two weeks ahead of the Oct. 28 parliament elections. His popularity, already enormous for his likeable personality and boxing ring triumphs, is transferring politically to his party as well. His Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms Party has leaped in the polls – from 9.6 percent in August to 16 in October, according to the Democratic Initiatives Foundation.

This puts Klitschko's UDAR second after the ruling Party of Regions, which polls at 23 percent support. If these numbers hold up on election day, it guarantees that Ukraine will have a politically combative new parliament.

Klitschko is sharply critical of President Viktor Yanukovich and the pro-presidential Party of Regions, vowing to "never cooperate with the ruling party or their satellites."

When asked about his impressions on the campaign trail after long trips across the country, he pauses for a while. "People are angry," he says, speaking with the Kyiv Post in his Volkswagen minivan as he travels to the next destination in Sumy Oblast.

"This unites people all over the country – their attitude to the ruling party, which has failed in all their promises."

But is Klitschko and his team a real alternative? Despite fame and charisma, it seems he starts to struggle as soon as he is asked a slightly off-beat question. It's clear that he lacks depth on many issues. But many voters don't focus on that.

"Can you give this to Vitali? Please!" an elderly woman hands a folded piece of paper to a driver of one of the campaign vehicles in a town of Romny, Klitschko's next stop in Sumy Oblast.

During a single day, Klitschko's people collect about a hundred similar letters. People either ask questions, ask for help or just wish him well.

While the sports hero nicknamed Dr. Iron Fist is a boxing legend, when it comes to politics, many questions remain about his experience and his ability to lead. His experience so far has been leading the UDAR faction in Kyiv City Council since 2006 and two failed attempts to run for mayor in Kyiv.

Many also blame him for his unwillingness to merge with the United Opposition, a block of eight parties headed by Arseniy Yatsenyuk and imprisoned ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Both Yatsenyuk and Klitschko had promised to agree on candidates to run in many single-mandate constituencies, but so far no decisions have been made.

"We were suggested to make behind-the-curtains deals...but we refused. We decided that the strongest candidate who has the best chances in a certain district should run," he says.

Klitschko says agreement on a single



As Vitali Klitschko leaves the stage after a short speech in Konotop, Ukraine, on Oct. 9, his supporters go wild and try to shake his hand or simply touch their idol. (Oleksandr Kosarev)

candidate has been reached in 32 districts and "will be made public soon." As to his party, he hopes to get 70-75 seats in parliament. Then, there will be time for coalition with other opposition forces in Parliament, he says.

"There is no sense in signing any kind of agreements or memorandums (now). The best guarantee is an honest handshake. What I can say is that we will never cooperate with ruling Party of Regions, and Communists. All other democratic forces we will work with," Klitschko promises.

Klitschko does not look caught off guard when asked who pays for his

campaign – he was asked this question many times before and shakes it off, dismissing the rumors of oligarch backing as a black PR campaign.

"The campaign costs Hr 100 million, most went to the upkeep of the regional offices, paying salaries and ads. A substantial amount of this money I cover myself, the rest is covered by the small and medium businesspeople who are members of the party," Klitschko says.

He is quick to laugh off another question – that he is being sponsored by some of Ukraine's richest billionaires, including industrial tycoon Dmytro Firtash. According to claims

from investigative journalists, including from Ukrainska Pravda, some of the people in Klitschko's list have strong business and personal ties with Firtash and other controversial figures.

"It is a dirty technology of the opponents to dub the party as not independent, a project of some oligarchs," says Klitschko. Then he points to a smiling Pavlo Ryabikin, one of the most controversial figures in his party list, who sits near him in the car. "Some people say I am appointed by Firtash to watch over Klitschko. This is just nonsense," says Ryabikin.

Criticism aside, Klitschko makes sure his promise is spoken loudly and several times at every meeting during his campaign tour, and the promise is big. He promises to focus on fighting corruption and setting up an agency that will investigate suspect officials and public servants. He also promises to launch Georgian style economic reforms, create transparency and work towards integrating Ukraine with the European Union.

Some compare him with former President Viktor Yushchenko, who rose to power in the 2004 Orange Revolution as a national hero on similar promises, but dramatically lost his popularity as he failed to deliver on the reforms.

Klitschko is aware of that disappointment. When asked if there is anything that frightens him, he falls quiet for a moment and then softly says: "Failing people's hopes."

Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Tuchynska can be reached at tuchynska@kyivpost.com

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Four years after global crisis, banking sector still recovering

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI
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"Ukraine's banking sector has been recovering after the boom and bust in the lending sector of 2005-2008, and is still on its way towards transitioning into a healthier, more stable state," reads a recent report by Kyiv-based investment bank ICU.

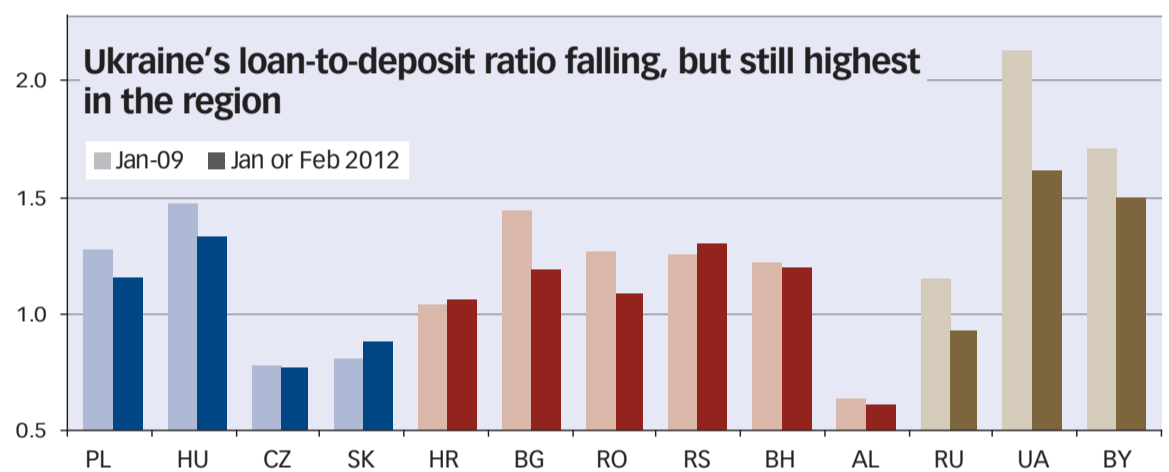
Experts working in the field agree. Non-performing loans remain high, at more than 30 percent, according to the World Bank, with no drivers for a revival in lending in sight. Scarred by a 40 percent devaluation in 2008 that caused many Ukrainian borrowers to default on their hard currency loans, the government banned lending in foreign denominations to non-exporters.

At present analysts expect a rather gradual weakening of the hryvnia – to 8.5-9.5 by the end of next year. Six-

month forward contracts, a commonly used benchmark to forecast exchange rates, have even dropped from around 9.5 hryvnia per dollar to 9.0, signaling some breathing space, according to investment bank Dragon Capital. Nonetheless, the population continues to exhibit a knee-jerk reaction to any whiff of currency weakness, so fears of a drastic slide are driving up rates.

"High rates on hryvnia facilities are mainly fueled by hryvnia depreciation expectations - households and businesses increasingly believe that hryvnia will become considerably cheaper in the coming months and choose to abstain from depositing hryvnia savings for more than two months," explained Vitaliy Vavryshchuk, head of research at investment agency SP Advisors.

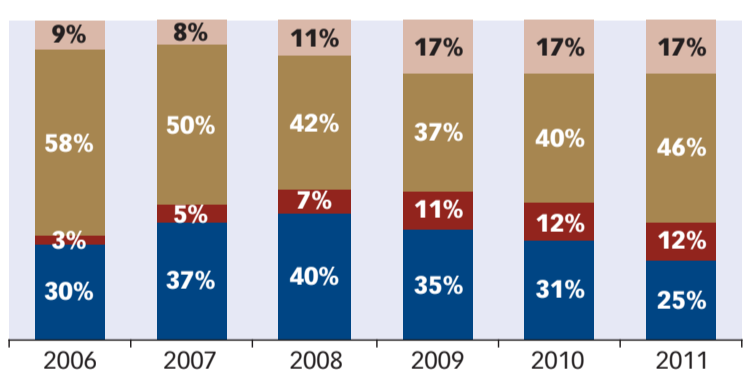
The current situation is hurting the sector's prospects. The past year has been marked by a gradual retreat



Source: NBU, Raiffeisen Research

In the years after 2004, Ukraine experienced a massive lending boom followed by a spectacular bust four years later. The excessively high loan-to-deposit ratio has fallen since, but still remains far above regional peers.

Market shares by bank ownership



Source: NBU, Raiffeisen Research

Western banks were the first to cash in on Ukraine's banking boom, but are now being replaced by local and Russian-owned banks.

of Western banks, who have limited their retail operations in favor of more lucrative corporate ones, cut down on branches and staff and, as with Germany's Commerzbank, pulled out of the market entirely. One reason are the problems at home: Europe's ongoing debt crisis has pushed regulators to boost capital requirements, leading them to cut lending or even pull capital from their subsidiaries abroad.

According to a report by Austria's Raiffeisen, the share of non-Russian foreign banks on the Ukrainian market has fallen from 40 percent in 2008 to 25 percent at the end of 2011, while Russian owned banks almost doubled their presence – from 7 to 12 percent.

But domestic factors are also playing a role. An economic slowdown mixed with uncertainty regarding Ukraine's cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and gas negotiations

with Russia has led many companies to delay investment plans.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian companies wanting to finance expansion projects or bolster their working capital have been hit hard by rates easily climbing past the 20-25 percent mark.

"Since the crisis began, the situation regarding not only the rates, but also the range of products, has considerably deteriorated," said Oleksandr Slobodanyk, a former banker now working as chief financial officer at building material heavyweight Unigran. Previously large companies could tap bond markets or access cheap foreign financing, he said, but now one of the few options available are restocking loans backed by export crediting agencies.

The situation is particularly difficult for agricultural companies, which often need to tap banking credits to ensure smooth operations. While large play-

ers listed abroad are not feeling the squeeze smaller firms operating on the local market are struggling.

"It's very expensive for most farmers, who reduce their expenditures to the minimum, delaying long term investments in machinery, cattle breeding and construction; large holdings listed overseas and exporting have a possibility to get loans in hard currencies twice as cheap," said Jean-Jacques Herve, a specialist in agricultural financing at Credit Agricole.

He noted companies could find support by obtaining bank guarantees for payments to their suppliers, or entering into credit partnerships, linking farmers, suppliers and food industry. But this is not available to everyone. "Ordinary Ukrainian farmers have no access. They have few alternatives," he summed it up.

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Ukrsibbank's Joannier: Change in mentality can open path to sophisticated products

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI
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Still a beginner's market, Ukraine lacks the sophisticated financial instruments needed by banks and companies to hedge their risks, says Philippe Joannier, who chairs the management board at Ukrsibbank, owned by France's BNP Paribas. But while some new products will simply take time to settle in, major changes will require a change in mentality from both the monetary authorities and the man on the street.

"Liquidity is tight. Access to refinancing from the central bank is difficult. Interest rates on interbank market are quite high," Francois Girod, head of capital markets at Ukrsibbank, listed the banking sector's ailment.

The current monetary policy is a big

burden, Joannier confirmed, but the lack of necessary instruments is also holding the sector back.

"The fact that a lot of instruments that we take for granted in other places, but that are lacking here, this has to have a repercussion," Joannier said.

The forward market is a perfect example. Used by companies to sell or buy something in the future at a pre-agreed price, it is often used by traders to hedge against changes in currency or commodity price, making it a good tool to reduce risk of devaluation.

"The forward contract ... was only introduced in the first half of 2011," Joannier said. "And this is a product that has been existing for over 30 years – I was marketing forward contracts in Australia in 1975. It's not exactly rocket science."

"It's a market that is only starting to grow. We see foreign currency forward operations (of) up to six months (in the best of cases). We see large corporations, both local and international, looking at this market and looking to use it," Girod said, noting that prospects of devaluation were holding back further development. Thus, importers looking to hedge find the tool too expensive, while those selling can cash in as long as their deals are concluded before the exchange rate slides.

"There are some limitations due to the context," Girod summed it up.

But the lack of proper instruments is also a challenge for banks trying to manage an unruly market. Interest rate swaps that allow people to lock in fixed rate payments in exchange for varying ones (or vice versa), Girod argued, are

a great tool for banks that have to juggle short-term deposits and long-term lending, as is presently the case.

"Managing the asset-liability balance of the bank is a challenge in a market where there are very few hedging instruments for interest rate risk and liquidity risk," Girod deplored.

The retail sector could also benefit from some innovation. Credit cards are still not widely used, Joannier noted, nor are automatic transfers. Unlike in developed markets, people rarely automatically pay for utilities or different regular expenditures, and are thus constantly caught up in petty operations.

The key to Ukraine's banking sector's long-term development, however, is a change in mentality, Joannier noted.

"It's a question of expectations. At this stage devaluation is not a cer-

tainty, but most people expect one. So it risks being a self-fulfilling prophecy. The rates will stay high until there is a devaluation, or there is a perception of another way of doing things – if you don't let the hryvnia float than at least allow a controlled drift," Joannier said.

While a clear message from Ukraine's monetary authorities is badly needed, Joannier argued, ordinary people also have to adopt a different approach. Right now the strength of one's currency is a question of national pride, Joannier noted, but that only means your exports are more expensive. As soon as people stop panicking about modest changes to the exchange rate, he said, those changes themselves will stop mattering as much – and the rates will start dropping.

Kyiv Post editor Jakub Parusinski can be reached at parusinski@kyivpost.com

Citibank's Fisher: 'Not good economic policy to keep people guessing'

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM

After several tough years, the banking sector is ready to start financing Ukraine's economic growth once more, says Steven Fisher, CEO of international banking giant Citibank's operations in Ukraine. But for that to happen, Fisher explains, the central bank will have to abandon its tight liquidity policy aimed at keeping the hryvnia exchange rate stable.

Some foreign banks are deleveraging, looking to reduce their operations, cut down on staff or sell off branches, said Fisher. Others have run into troubles at home or are simply still recovering from the consequences of having purchased existing banks for too high a price, given their problems with bad loans, corruption and excessive costs.

But the current monetary policy is also holding the sector back, argued Fisher, who came to head Citi's Ukraine operations in 2010, after having ran corporate lending in the post-Soviet area from Moscow. Among the policies used by the National Bank of Ukraine to restrict banks' liquidity, Fisher mentioned the sale of government bonds to banks and raising overnight rates to 20-25 percent. It is also limiting the use of repurchase agreements, he said. Known to bankers as REPOs, such transactions are used by banks to balance their assets and liabilities.

"The NBU is very, very selectively offering REPO. All banks have the right to REPO transactions with the central bank, but the central bank in the last six months has very sparingly done these," Fisher said. "Obviously, we all know the reason why. At least until after the elections this policy will strictly continue because it's the government policy to keep the exchange rate stable."

The question, he said, is what happens after the elections: sudden deval-



Steven Fisher, Citibank CEO

uation or a gradual change? Fisher favors slow devaluation, but emphasizes the need for clear statements from the central bank in any case.

"It's not good economic policy to keep people guessing. Because, usually, if you state something in advance, people and markets know how to react, and companies and individuals know how to plan," he said.

Right now, there is too much uncertainty, he added, which is why people are afraid to keep hryvnias in banks. So they exchange them for dollars. In September alone, Ukrainians bought \$1.8 billion worth of dollars, which is 2.5 times more than in August, the National Bank reported this week.

Holding on to cash is hurting the economy at large, causing rates on deposits and loans to spiral up in a vicious cycle. "If you're not getting liquidity from the interbank system or the central bank, then your primary source is deposits, and the only way to attract deposits is to pay more for them," Fisher said.

"Imagine you're a small or medium enterprise, and you have to pay fairly

high borrowing rates anyway," he argued. "When banks add the margins to reflect the risk of that class of borrowers, on top of these already much higher base borrowing costs: what SME company can afford to pay 30 percent?"

While some big companies are still investing, a lot more of this activity can be taking place, the banker noted. This year's dynamics on the capital markets, both in terms of debt and equity issues, for instance, have been disappointing. Indeed, not a single notable deal has surfaced, with companies deciding to hold back on any potential eurobond or share issues until more favorable market conditions arise, Fisher noted.

"There was virtually no eurobond activity this year, and because the equity markets were very unstable and the risk factor associated with Ukraine is high, there were virtually no equity issuances this year," he deplored. "The markets were basically closed for Ukraine."

Nonetheless, the banker is upbeat about next year's prospects: the government's borrowing costs are falling, while credit-default swaps, a measure of the "country risk" margins that companies see added to their rates, have recently hit 12-month lows. At the same time, foreign stock markets are picking up.

Whether or not Ukraine benefits from this, depends on what happens after the elections, Fisher said. The most important issue is a new deal with the International Monetary Fund, even if that means hard choices for the next government. Obviously, he added, if any fraud occurs during the voting, that "would be a very negative signal."

"If certain things play out in a positive way for Ukraine, we could have a good year, with market access restored," Fisher said.

Kyiv Post editor Jakub Parusinski can be reached at parusinski@kyivpost.com

Program not likely to spur mortgage lending to boost home ownership

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA
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It all begun with great fanfare and promise: The government will help low-income families living in poor conditions to buy new apartments. So far, however, results have been modest, with less than 700 people signing up for the Affordable Accommodation program since its launch in May.

Mortgage lending in Ukraine never recovered after the real estate bubble popped in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. As a result, development projects throughout the country have stood empty, with young families simply unable to take out decade-long loans at double digit rates. This, in turn, has depressed construction, a major driver of economic growth.

Hence the idea of government subsidies to bring down the costs for prospective buyers. Under the program, the state would reimburse 13 out of the total 16 percent interest rate charged on mortgages for people in need of accommodation. Here "in need" means anyone living in a dormitory, or having less than nine square meters of living space per family member.

But the program is by no means for the poor. A person subscribing for the program should have enough savings to cover 25 percent of the property's value upfront. Families should have combined incomes of at least Hr 15,000 (\$1,850), as monthly payments should not exceed 50 percent of their earnings.

As a result, so far the population's response has been limited. As of Oct. 8, 685 people signed mortgage deals with the program, said Rostyslav Gomenyuk, spokesperson for the governmental fund overseeing the program. Likewise, just five percent of the allotted billion hryvnias will be spent by the year's end, said deputy head of the parliament's housing and utilities committee Igor Lysov.

"Society is not ready to receive

money at this interest rate. The program has to be promoted more, so that people would believe in it. There are fears that next year the program will be dropped and families will be charged with the full interest rate. That is why this program is being implemented very cautiously," said Lysov.

Experts note the interest rate of 16 percent is below the bank's starting rate of 19 percent, but blame the program's conditions for the poor results.

"There is no documented guarantee of any kind from the government. Borrowers pay the interest themselves, all 16 percent, and the state reimburses 13 percent within a month. The agreement states that, should the government fail to reimburse its part, the consumer is fully obligated to cover it," said Viktor Nesin, head of the real estate consultants union.

"Many people complained to us about being refused, as to qualify you have to be rich and suffer from poor living conditions," Nesin added.

"Harsh requirements aside, many do not want to get involved with the government, as they do not believe that the government will fulfill its promise," said Nadiya Moiseyenko, head of Key Realty real estate agency.

Commercial banks have also stayed away from the program, with most contracts being signed with state-owned Oshchadbank and Ukrgasbank.

The idea is not new – the previous government also said it wants to help young people and families afford accommodation.

A program which covered mortgage interests for 5 years was launched a year before the economic crisis hit in 2009. Since then, some recipients stopped receiving reimbursements, while others wait in fear of 2013, the last year with interest being covered on accommodation whose value decreased dramatically since 2009.

Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Tuchyńska can be reached at tuchyńska@kyivpost.com

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Erste's Cetkovsky: Good times will come later than expected

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM

Current high rates are unsustainable, says Erste Bank CEO in Ukraine Pavel Cetkovsky, and lending will not revive until they are brought down. As a result, previously upbeat Western banks could limit their business in Ukraine.

Erste recently surprised the market by announcing it was considering the sale of its Ukraine operations. "We are looking at two basic strategies: the first is to keep things as it is and understand that the good times will come a bit later than initially expected," explained Cetkovsky.

"The second scenario is to look at the market and to see what prices can be achieved," Cetkovsky said. If an attractive price is offered, he added, the company would consider its options, both in terms of its current operations in the country and the group's long term regional strategy.

Should Erste sell it would join a growing group of Western banks to move out or curtail their business in

Ukraine. Even moneyed Russian banks, without the home market problems of European competitors, are putting plans on hold. Sberbank Rossii, which saw rapid expansion over the past year, announced this week it was looking to sell its Volksbank subsidiary based in Lviv, bought in February 2012, rather than integrate it in its business.

Ukraine's banking sector has gone through several rough years. The "golden boom of retail lending" took place in the years after 2004, the Erste CEO said, when retail borrowing, mostly for mortgages and car loans, shot up. "Until 2008, this seemed a very profitable and fast growing area," he explained.

But the segment was hit hard by the crisis and the subsequent hryvnia devaluation, Cetkovsky said. According to Erste's estimates, up to 40 percent of transactions at the time were speculative, buying property just to flip it a year later at a profit and thus unsustainable once the bubble burst. "That business model collapsed completely," he said.



Erste Bank CEO Pavel Cetkovsky

Now the situation is moving back, Cetkovsky said, but until something changes and hryvnia rates drop, large-scale lending is probably not going to return.

Having reached a critical mass in terms of size or regional presence, he

said, most Western banks are staying in the market. The only difference, he added, is that they are now refocusing on the corporate segment, as was the case before 2004.

But firms, too, are dissuaded from taking out large loans at present rates. Foreign currency lending is banned for most companies, while rates in hryvnia are simply too steep.

"What we see in the market at the moment is that legal entities are taking the financing, but they are taking it mostly for working capital, to finance current production," the banker said. "We see very little or close to no major investment projects."

Credit quality erosion is also a major worry. A situation in which real interest rates above 20 percent, which started already three months ago, is not sustainable for a long time, Cetkovsky said. At first it was not so bad, he explained, but since the end of summer it has worsened dramatically.

Companies could traditionally rely on inflation to reduce their debt burden, he explained. Assuming revenues

increased with price rises, a loan taken out a year ago under conditions of high inflation would see its real value crumble, even if the sum kept growing.

Right now, however, the lack of inflation means that companies end up paying a real rate almost equal to the nominal one, the banker said. Add the prospect of devaluation and you have a high risk that paying for a longer term loan is unsustainable for most businesses.

"For a legal entity, in industry or agriculture ... if you want to take a loan at 20 or more percent, to finance a sowing campaign for instance, it is quite a lot of money. It means your margins have to be at least 20 percent," Cetkovsky said.

"I want to believe that the situation is short term, and will not last for longer than a few months," he added. "It's very hard to imagine that Ukraine will be in the middle of 2013 with interest rates of over 20 percent and inflation as low as 5 percent."

Kyiv Post editor Jakub Parusinski can be reached at parusinski@kyivpost.com.

Investors say renewable energy market stacked

→1 He fears that banks won't be willing to finance such projects if developers are forced to purchase less reliable Ukrainian wind turbines that might break down and make it impossible to pay off bank loans. "It would be very difficult to deal with [such an increase], but it would be possible," he said.

In his view, if the tougher requirements become law, some foreign companies might drop out of the small but growing sector, costing the country in potential future investments.

"Development companies generally do not complain, but it's getting to the point that we can't work in this industry," he said. And, as a result, "you could see some good companies leave and the investment capital would not be here."

If the law is adopted, the EuroCape Ukraine chief predicts that some developers might lose close to \$40 million they have already invested. If the con-

ditions don't improve, the alternative energy market might remain starved of billions of dollars of contemplated investment to add 3,000 megawatts in renewable energy capacity.

Besides the local content requirement, O'Brien cites land acquisition and connection to the electrical grid as two other market entry obstacles for foreign investors in the renewable energy market in Ukraine right now.

"Connection to the electrical grid is almost impossible because they (the authorities) are not giving out grid connection permission. It's a political issue, not a technical issue," O'Brien stressed.

Investors also complain that the green tariff does not give enough incentive the way it works at the moment. The Ukrainian government grants the green tariff — one of the highest for wind and solar in the world — only after a project is completed, which makes an investment

risky. In most countries, the green tariff is granted at the beginning of a project.

EuroCape's country manager says that his company and some other foreign investors will be asking for a meeting with President Viktor Yanukovich to discuss the issue after the Oct. 28 parliamentary elections. "There could be a reasonable compromise," he said optimistically.

O'Brien says they are not entirely against the local content rule and as a compromise offer to tie the percentage of the local content share to the green tariff rate. That is, the bigger the local content in the renewable electric station facility, the higher the green tariff such companies should be getting.

He believes that the current philosophy is "we, meaning several companies, do not want competition, we want to own this market."

He said that three companies in Ukraine are the most active in "lob-

bing for the local content increase to 50 percent." According to him, those companies are DTEK, Activ Solar, and Donetsk-based Wind Parks of Ukraine.

DTEK did not respond to a Kyiv Post inquiry. Activ Solar's press service said their company "is not lobbying and has never lobbied for such an amendment."

Vladyslav Yeremenko, director of Wind Parks of Ukraine, told the Kyiv Post that they are "supporting the amendment, but not lobbying for it," because it will create more jobs locally. He also said that foreign investors "missed time and now want to amend legislation" and added that "if they want to work in Ukraine, they have to follow the legislation."

Wind Parks of Ukraine is often tied to Anatoliy Blyzniuk, minister of building and housing, an allegation Yeremenko denies.

It took Wind Parks of Ukraine some two years in order to launch and get green tariffs for their two wind power stations totaling 100 megawatts capacity. EuroCape has spent the last four years on a 500-megawatt wind power project, which it hopes to complete by 2016.

Owned by billionaire and Yanukovich ally Rinat Akhmetov, DTEK finished its first 60-megawatt wind power facility in Zaporizhzhya Oblast last week in less than four years.

Activ Solar, which is linked to Ukraine's Security and Defense Secretary Andriy Klyuyev, installed solar parks with a total 270 megawatts of capacity in two years. The company has some 99 percent of all solar energy capacity in the country.

Kyiv Post staff writer Yuriy Onyshkiv can be reached at onyshkiv@kyivpost.com

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Going Out Guide

● – see address in the box below and on the pull-out map.

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Oct. 12-14

Oktoberfest, Ukrainian-style

Yes, we have our own Oktoberfest. Called Zhovtenfest, it will be happening in Kyiv this weekend, pairing 40 beer brands from local and international breweries with hundreds of people ready to make a good use of the varieties. Actually, beer will only be part of the attraction at the festival. Organizers plan to turn it into a family-friendly event with plenty of non-boozie activities for kids, as well as a grocery fair and a concert. Visitors will also have a chance to try delicious dishes and traditional beer snacks made by local chefs. So, pretzels, beware! **Zhovtenfest. Oct. 12-14. Friday from 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday from 12 a.m. Khreschatyk. Free**

Friday, October 12

Classical music

Organ Music of Romantic Epoch. Works of Schumann, Liszt, Brahms, Franck, Vidor (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100 ●

Classics on Fridays. Works of Vivaldi, Beethoven, Saint-Saens (piano, violoncello). Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 40 ●

Symphony Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine Playing Mendelssohn-Bartholdi, Chopin, Poulenc, Rachmaninoff (violin, piano). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 20-100 ●

Movies

Looper (action). Ukraine. 10 a.m., 12:30, 3 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 40-70 ●

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 1:50 p.m. Hr 35 ●

New Bulgaria Cinema (film festival). Zhovten. 7:30 p.m., 9:30 Hr 25-50 ●

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 3:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

New Germany Cinema (film festival). Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 40 ●

100 Films in 100 Minutes. (shorts festival). Kinopanorama. 8 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

Live music

Easy Dizzy & Red Rocks (rock covers). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 100 ●

Vasya Club & Chill Out (disco rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75 ●

Oh, Lennon... Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50 ●

Vzrosly Band (rock). Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Theaters

An Old Maid (lyric comedy, starring Inna Churikova). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 500-2,200 ●

Sylviya (lyric comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 40-70 ●

The Men And Eternity (premiere). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 40-60 ●

Dead Souls (based on Nikolay Gogol novel). Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 70 ●

Clubs

Fridance Party. Vodka Bar. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 80 for males ●

Night Of Puritans (with topless DJ). Egoist. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 50 for males ●

Ukrainian Fashion Week Anouki Bicholla Afterparty. D'Lux. 11 p.m. Call for fee details ●

Sexy Disco 90s. Seven Music Club.

11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 50 for males ●

Shows

Enter Shikari. Bingo. 7 p.m. Hr 300-400 ●

Ihor Saruhanov. House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 150-750 ●

Lacuna Coil. NAU Center of Culture and Art. 7 p.m. Hr 250-350 ●

Mavrin. Underground Music Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 170-200 ●

Landyshi. Bochka. 8 p.m. Hr 90-140 ●

Miscellaneous

Retro and Exotic Motor Show 2012. ACCO International. 10 a.m. Hr 45 ●

Chrysanthemum Exhibition. Spivochko Pole Park near Lavra. 10 a.m. Hr 20 ●

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40 ●

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ●

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children) ●

ZhovtenFest (beer festival). Maidan Nezalezhnosti. 12:01 p.m. Free

Saturday, October 13

Classical music

Premiere. Works of Mozart, Schubert. House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-90 ●

Roads of Love... Works of Poulenc, Obradors, Bixio, Bilash, Poklad, Shamo, Protsenko. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-90 ●

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 12:00 p.m. Hr 25 ●

New Bulgaria Cinema (film festival). Zhovten. 7:10 p.m., 9:20 Hr 25-50 ●

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 3:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

New Germany Cinema (film festival). Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 40 ●

100 Films in 100 Minutes. (shorts festival). Kinopanorama. 8 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

Live music

Larus & Tex-Mex Company. Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 75 ●

Tabula Rasa & Mama Mia (italiano disco, rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75 ●

GhurtYoGhurt. Art Club 44. 10 p.m.

Hr 50 ●

Clubs

Casanova Night (male & female striptease). Seven Music Club. 10 p.m. Free for females, Hr 80 for males ●

Esthetic Vibes. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 25-50 for females, Hr 30-60 for males ●

Disco 90s. Disco Radio Hall. 10 p.m. Hr 60 for females, Hr 80 for males ●

Theaters

Lying Naked Truth (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80 ●

Night For Two (lyric comedy). Theater in Podil. 7 p.m. Hr 60 ●

Empty Trash (comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 40-60 ●

Last Summer In Chulimsk (drama). Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 90 ●

Shows

Basta. Stereo Plaza. 8 p.m. Hr 250-1200 ●

Auktsyon. NAU Center of Culture and Art. 7 p.m. Hr 150-450 ●

Oleg Mityaev. Zhovtnevy Palats. 7 p.m. Hr 120-1200 ●

Rozhdestvo (pop band). House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 80-550 ●

Kvartal 95 Studio (comedy show). Freedom Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 800-2500 ●

Miscellaneous

Retro and Exotic Motor Show 2012. ACCO International. 10 a.m. Hr 45 ●

Chrysanthemum Exhibition. Spivochko Pole Park near Lavra. 10 a.m. Hr 20 ●

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40 ●

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ●

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children) ●

ZhovtenFest (beer festival). Maidan Nezalezhnosti. 12:01 p.m. Free

Sunday, October 14

Classical music

In Captivity of Love. On the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Ukraine and the Italian Republic. Works of Monteverdi, Cavalli, Stradella, Scarlatti, Vivaldi, Handel. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-90 ●

Duel of Tenors and Baritones (USA, Russia, South Korea). National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music. 7 pm. Free ●

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 12:00 p.m. Hr 25 ●

New Bulgaria Cinema (film festival). Zhovten. 7:20 p.m., 9:10 Hr 25-50 ●

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 3:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

New Germany Cinema (film festival). Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 40 ●

Live music

Yuri Loza & Karnavalnaya Zhara (rock covers). Docker's Pub. 9 p.m. Free ●

Vyacheslav Butusov's Birthday with Larus. Docker ABC. 10 p.m. Free ●

Soyuz 44 (jazz jam session). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50 ●

Piaty Vymir (garage rock). Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Clubs

Swagga Party. Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 10-30 ●

Back to USSR. Ajour. 9 p.m. Free before 11 p.m. Hr 100 for males starting 11 p.m. ●

Theaters

Too Married Taxi Driver (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200 ●

Four Reasons To Get Married (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120 ●

Pickled Aristocrat (Ukrainian-British fantasy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90 ●

Ball In Savoy (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-100 ●

Shows

Ivan Kuchin. House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 150-750 ●

Yuriy Loza. Docker Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 200-400 ●

Miscellaneous

Retro and Exotic Motor Show 2012. ACCO International. 10 a.m. Hr 45 ●

Chrysanthemum Exhibition. Spivochko Pole Park near Lavra. 10 a.m. Hr 20 ●

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40 ●

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ●

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children) ●

ZhovtenFest (beer festival). Maidan Nezalezhnosti. 12:01 p.m. Free

Pokrova (festival). Pyrohovo Folk Open-Air Museum. 11 a.m. Hr 5-30 ●

Hey, Come Back, Sagaidachny (kozak festival). Mamayeva Sloboda. 8:30 a.m. Free ●

Monday, October 15

Classical music

Works of Vivaldi, Haydn, Mozart, Bortnyansky (organ, harpsichord). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-50 ●

Masterpieces of Ukrainian and Western Classics. Works of Mozart, Dvorak, Lysenko, Verdi, Puccini, Bellini. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80 ●

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 9:30 p.m. Hr 40 ●

New Bulgaria Cinema (film festival). Zhovten. 8:10 p.m., 9:20 Hr 25-50 ●

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 3:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

New Germany Cinema (film festival). Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 40 ●

Live music

Inzhyr (rock, disco, blues). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free ●

Balagan C. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free ●

Bohdan Humeniuk Quintet (jazz). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free ●

Theaters

Juno And Avos (rock opera in 4D format). Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 160-1,500 ●

The Cynical Comedy (based on William Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure"). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 25 – 120 ●

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Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ●

Chrysanthemum Exhibition. Spivochko Pole Park near Lavra. 10 a.m. Hr 20 ●

Tuesday, October 16

Classical music

Kyiv Chamber Ensemble Playing Brahms. House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80 ●

Spanish Tunes. National Academic Symphonic Orchestra of Ukraine Playing Ferran, Pascual-Villan, Pansoda, Oriola. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80 ●

Movies

New Bulgaria Cinema (festival). Zhovten. 7 p.m., 8:35 Hr 25-50 ●

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 3:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

New Germany Cinema (film festival). Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 40 ●

Live music

Tres Deseos (latino party). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free ●

More Huana (cover band). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 20 ●

Los Colorados (funk rock). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 100 ●

Guitar House Jam Session. Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Theaters

Curious Mrs. Savage (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 25-120 ●

The Merry Widow (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 70-90 ●

Love Without Rules (comedy). Artist's House. 7 p.m. Hr 60-130 ●

Romeo And Juliet (ballet). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-300 ●

Shows

Tatyana Bulanova. House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 150-750 ●

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ●

Chrysanthemum Exhibition. Spivochko Pole Park near Lavra. 10 a.m. Hr 20 ●

Wednesday, October 17

Classical music

Works of Bach, Handel, Caccini, Pergolesi, Albinoni (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80 ●

Evening of the Chamber Vocal Music. Works of Brahms, Schumann, Sviridov (piano). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80 ●

Movies

New Bulgaria Cinema (festival). Zhovten. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-50 ●

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 3:20 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

New Germany Cinema (film festival). Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 40 ●

Live music

The Magma (pop rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free ●

Rockin' Wolves (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30 ●

Jazz Wednesday with Staryi & Co. Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Theaters

The Cherry Orchard (drama, based on Anton Chekhov play). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120 ●

The Queue (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80 ●

Love Letters To Stalin (premiere). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80 ●

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 [MIS37]

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children) ●

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40 ●

Chrysanthemum Exhibition. Spivochko Pole Park near Lavra. 10 a.m. Hr 20 ●

Thursday, October 18

Classical music

Works of Allen, Bach, Bove (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100 ●

Movies

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 3:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 12:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 25-40 ●

The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex. Master Class 7 p.m. Hr 40 ●

Live music

Mama Mia (italiano disco, rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free ●

Chill Out (disco rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30 ●

Robots Don't Cry & Bludance (indie). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 40 ●

Den Zashchity Detei. Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Theaters

Sorochinsky Fair (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-120 ●

Where Do The Kids Come From?

Dolls for girls Oct. 12-14

A unique collection of handmade dolls made by 160 artists from Ukraine, Germany, Italy, USA, Russia, Belarus and Moldova goes on display at the 4th International Stylish Doll salon held in Kyiv's International Expo Center. Apart from dolls, the exhibition is bringing Ukrainian and European designers and craftsmen to teach master classes on embroidery, bead-weaving, clay modeling and other things needed for cool doll making. The dolls and related goodies for making them will also go on sale. For more information go to <http://modnalyalka-3.jimdo.com> **Stylish Doll Salon. Oct. 12-14. International Exhibition Center. 10 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Hr 20, Free for kids under 12 ●**



Japanese culture, animation festival

Are you interested in Japanese anime culture? If you aren't, you might want to consider it just for this weekend, when you get a unique opportunity to learn more about it at the Festival of Japanese Culture and Animation.

Festival of Japanese Culture and Animation. Oct. 12-14. Zhovten. Friday from 2 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. Hr 20-70 day time, Hr 40-120 night time

(comedy). Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 90

Wife Is Wife (comedy). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200

Fatal Flirt (comedy). Koleso Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 70

Shows

World Tango Stars. House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 100-550

Alai Oli. Underground Music Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 110-150

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault).

National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40

Chrysanthemum Exhibition. Spivochi Pole Park near Lavra. 10 a.m. Hr 20

Friday, October 19

Classical music

Works of Bach, Vivaldi, Pergolesi, Stradella, Durante (organ, violin, cello). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80

Genuises and Diletantti. Symphony Orchestra of the National

Philharmonic of Ukraine Playing Strauss, Pasternak, Griboedov, Hofmann. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 20-100

MusicNova Duo Playing Bach, Ravel, Debussy (piano, violoncello). Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 50

Movies

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 3:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-40

Live music

Tabula Rasa & Crazy Train (rock). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Motor'rola Chumaki & Tex-Mex Company (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Alternative Music Meetings Festival. Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Theaters

Until Mother Did Not Come (comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

26 Rooms (based on Anton Chekhov's play 'Lesly'). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 40-70

Trees Die Standing (drama). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120

Shows

Iryna Krug. Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 150-950

Kiss FM X Birthday. Stereo Plaza. 9 p.m. Hr 350-800

Green Gray. Art Club 44. 9 p.m. Hr 100

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40

Chrysanthemum Exhibition. Spivochi Pole Park near Lavra. 10 a.m. Hr 20

Saturday, October 20

Classical music

Works of Bach, Handel, Liszt, Knight (organ). House of Organ

Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100

Chamber Art Music International Festival. Claudio Martinez (Spain), Stefan Reti (France) Playing Mozart (flute, piano). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-90

Live music

Motor'rola & More Huana (covers). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75

April & Bangladesh Orchestra. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Wake Up (cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Alternative Music Meetings Festival. Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Theaters

Athens Nights (comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

Potassium Cyanide (black comedy). Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 60-85

Am I Crazy? (tragicomedy). New Theater On Pechersk. 7 p.m. Hr 60

The Imaginary Invalid (premiere, comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200

Shows

Mykhailo Zhvanetskyi. Zhovtnevy Palats. 7 p.m. Hr 120-2500

Nik Savinich. Atmosfera 360. 8 p.m. Hr 80-120

Alisa (rock). NAU Center of Culture and Arts. 7 p.m. Hr 150-450

Lyapis Trubetskoy. Stereo Plaza. 7 p.m. Hr 190-900

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40

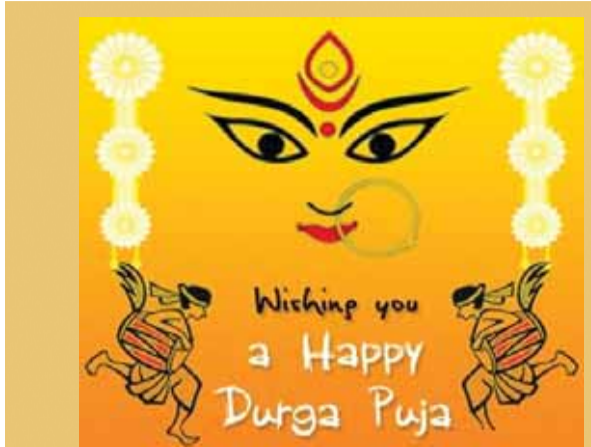
Chrysanthemum Exhibition. Spivochi Pole Park near Lavra. 10 a.m. Hr 20

Yaponomania. Kyiv Expo Plaza. 10 a.m. Hr 35-70, Hr 10 (for children)

Sunday, October 21

Classical music

Chamber Art Music International Festival, Claudio Martinez (Spain), Denis Severin (Switzerland) Playing



Durga Puja

Durga Puja is celebrated as Navratri, the festival of nights that lasts for 9 days, with joy all over India, especially in West Bengal in worship of Goddess Durga. Singing, Dancing, Sweets and Geity are an integral part of Durga Puja festival.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO VISIT AND GET THE BLESSINGS OF THE GODDESS. ENTRY IS FREE!!!! Venue: VDNKh exhibition center, Prospect Glushkogo, Pavillion No: 7 Date: 20th October - 24th October 2012 Time: From 1200 pm onwards

Kyiv, Ukraine, 01133 Boulevard Lesi Ukrainki - 7-B (section A) Office nos : 318/319/320Tel: +38-044-285-47-20 Email: office@sanskriti.com.ua



Brahms, Schubert (piano, violin) National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-90

Live music

Karnavalnaya Zhara (rock, covers). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free

Soyuz 44 (jazz jam session). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

Robots Don't Cry (acoustic). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Theaters

Natalka Poltavka (Ukrainian roco-co, based on Ivan Kotlyarevsky's play). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-150

Woyzeck. Carnival Of Flesh (premiere). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120

Quartet For Two (premiere). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

Shows

Dark Patrick. Artist's House. 6 p.m. Hr 50-150

Uriah Heep (hard rock). Docker Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 500-850

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40

Chrysanthemum Exhibition. Spivochi Pole Park near Lavra. 10 a.m. Hr 20

Yaponomania. Kyiv Expo Plaza. 10 a.m. Hr 35-70, Hr 10 (for children)

Addresses of venues

Classical Music

- National Philharmonic of Ukraine
2 Volodymyr Uzviz St., 278-1697
filarmunia.com.ua/en
House of Organ Music
77 Velyka Vasylkivska St., 528-3186
organhall.kiev.ua
School of Jazz and Pop Art
7-A Chelyabinsk St., 517-6188
National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music
1-3/11 Horodetsky St. 279-1242
operna-nmau.kiev.ua
Movies
Zhovten
26 Kostyantynivska St., 205-5951
zhovten-kino.kiev.ua
Kyiv
19 Velyka Vasylkivska St. (former Chervonoarmiyiska), 234-7381
kievino.com.ua
Kinopanorama
19 Shota Rustaveli St., 287-3041
kinopanorama.com.ua
Budynek Kino
6 Saksahanskogo St., 287-6780
Ukraine
5 Gorodetsky St., 2796750, 279 8232
kino-ukraina.com.ua
Outdoor cinema
31 Nyzhnyourkivska St. http://kinokombo.blogspot.com/
For more schedules visit kino.ukr.net/cinema/kiev/
Live Music
Docker Pub
25 Bohatyrska St., metro Heroyiv Dnipra, 537-1340
docker.com.ua

- Forsage
51A Harmatnaya St., 406-7600
forsageclub.com.ua
Prime Club
8 Nauky Av., 524-2209
primeclub.in.ua
Crystal Hall
1 Dneprovsky Spusk, 288-5069
crystalhall.com.ua
Divan
2 Bessarabskaya Square, 235-7366
festrestdivan.com.ua
Bochka
22 Verhny Val St. 067-433-0433
bochka.ua
Route 66
87/30 Zhylyanska St. 584-3865
www.route66.com.ua
Clubs
Bionica
128 Borschahovska St., 277-4747
bionicaclub.com.ua
Seven Music Club
1G Saksahanskoho St. 205-4451
se7en.com.ua
Party Room
5/3 Velyka Vasylkivska St. (former Chervonoarmiyiska), 093-815-1468
partyroom.com.ua
Museum Le Club
10 Muzeiny Lane 221-1101
museum-club.com
Saxon Club
4 Trutenko Onufriy St., 257-4070
saxonclub.com.ua
Dorothy Pub
16/43 Saksahanskoho St., 287-0530
pubdorothy.com.ua
Sky Bar
5 Velyka Vasylkivska St. (former Chervonoarmiyiska), 465-8880
skybar.com.ua
Sullivan Room
8 Prorizna St., 095-455-7724
sullivanroom.kiev.ua

- Green Theatre
2 Park Alley 093 5912514
greentheatre.com.ua
Ajour
3 Leontovicha St., 234-7494
avalon.ua/en
Xlib Club
12 Frunze St., Thu-Sat 417-2546
myspace.com/xlibclub
Vodka Bar
Maidan Nezalezhnosti, Globus mall, 2nd line, 371-1102
vodka-bar.com.ua
TransForce
28B Moskovskiy Ave. 221-8981
Sharpei
26 Moskovskiy Ave. 390-1712
sharpei.ua
Disco Radio Hall
32 Moskovskiy Av. 428-7388
Dakh Modern Art Theatre
13B Velyka Vasylkivska St., 529-4062
dax.com.ua
Art Union Chorny Kvadrat
1-5 Artema St., 353-0843
artkvadrat.com
Kyiv Small Opera
5 Dehtyarskaya St. 502-3247
Shows
Palats Ukraina
13 Velyka Vasylkivska St. 247-2316
npmu.com.ua
Freedom Hall
134 Frunze St. 468-3232
freedomhall.com.ua
Stereo Plaza
17 Kivdize St. 222-8040
stereoplaza.com.ua
Palats Sportu
1 Sportyyna Square 246-7405

- National Opera Theater of Ukraine
50 Volodymyrka St., 279-1169
opera.com.ua
House of Actors
7 Yaroslaviv Val St., 235-2081
actorhall.com.ua
Molody Theater
17 prorizna St., 234-6251
molody.kiev.ua
Kyiv National Academic Theater of Operetta
53/3 Chervonoarmiyiska St., 287-6257
kieveropetta.kiev.ua
New Theater on Pechersk
5 Nemirovich-Danchenko St., 253-6550
newtheater.kiev.ua
Kiev Opera and Ballet Theater for Children and Youth
2 Mezhyhirnska St., 425-4280
musictheater.kiev.ua
Dakh Modern Art Theatre
13B Velyka Vasylkivska St., 529-4062
dax.com.ua
Art Union Chorny Kvadrat
1-5 Artema St., 353-0843
artkvadrat.com
Kyiv Small Opera
5 Dehtyarskaya St. 502-3247

- Artist's House
1/5 Artema St. 272-0547
International Exhibition Center
15 Brovarskiy Avenue 538-0827
iee-expo.com.ua
Lavra Gallery
17 Ivana Mazepy St. 280-0290
Underground Music Hall
13B Moskovskiy Avenue 360-9594
underground.co.ua
Zhovtnevy Palats
1, Instytutka St. 279-1582
icca.kiev.ua
NAU Center of Culture and Arts
1 Kosmonavta Komarova Ave., 406-6835
ckm.nau.edu.ua
Expocenter of Ukraine
1 Glushkov Ave. 596-9116, 596-9101, expocenter.com.ua
House of Officers
30/1 Mykhaila Hrushevs'koho St., 253-8072
Bingo
112 Peremogy Ave. 424-2555
bingo.ua
Miscellaneous
Kyiv Expo Plaza
2b Salutna St. 461-9585
expoplaza.kiev.ua
Master Klass cultural center
16 Lavrska St., 594-1063
masterklass.org
Pyrohovo Folk Open-Air Museum
Pyrohovo village, Kyiv region 526-5765
nmnapu.org.ua
Mamaeva Sloboda
2 Myhayla Dontsya St. 361-9848
mamaeva-sloboda.ua

- Ostrich farm
32 Pidlisna street, Yasnohorodka village, Kyiv region (04578) 232-440, ostrich.com.ua
Kyivska Rus park
Kopachiv village Kyiv region 461-9937
parkyivrus.com
KPI Art Center
37 Peremogy Avenue 241-8626
Museum of Books and Publishing of Ukraine
21, Building 9, Ivana Mazepy St. 280-7976
vuam.org.ua
M17 Contemporary Art Center
102-104 Gorkogo (Antonovycha) St., 596-2030
m17.com.ua
Kyiv Children and Youth palace
13 Ivana Mazepy St.
Art support fund
1/6 Frolivska St. 238-6521.
foundart.org.ua
Kult Ra
4 Volodymyrka St., 331-5948
kultra.org
Sky Mall
21 Henerala Vatutina Av., 495-5524
cityclub.kiev.ua
ACCO International exhibition center. 40-B Peremohy Avenue., 456-3804
acco.ua
Kyiv Pechersk Lavra
9 Lavrska St. 280-3071
kplavra.kiev.ua
Modern Art Museum
17 Hlubochitska St. 201-4945
modern-museum.org.ua
Mamaeva Sloboda
2 Myhayla Dontsya St. 361-9848
mamaeva-sloboda.ua

- National Art Museum of Ukraine
6 Hrushevskyogo St. 278-1357, 278-7454
namu.kiev.ua/en.html
Spartak stadium
105 Frunze St.
Mystetskiy Arsenal
10-12 Lavrska St. artarsenal.in.ua
National Writers Unity of Ukraine
2 Bankova St., 253-4586
nspu.org.ua
Chulan
21 Pushkynska St. facebook.com/4ulan
Triptych Gallery
34 Andriivskiy Spusk triptych-gallery.org 279-8385
Gryshko national botanic garden
1 Tymenayezvska St. 285-4105
nbg.kiev.ua
Kyiv National Museum of Russian art
9 Tereshchenkova St. 234-6218
kmrm.com.ua
Wunjo-Art gallery
10a Stalingrada St. 228-6620
wunjo-art.com
Pinchuk Art Center
1/2 Bassejan St. 590-0858
pinchukartcenter.org
Greter art-center
6 Vadyma Getmana St. 200-0760
greter-art.com
Atmosfera 360
57/3, Velyka Vasylkivska St. 229-0193
atmosfera.com.ua
Soviart
22a Andriivskiy Uzviz, 425-2219
soviart.com.ua
Ivan Honchar Museum

- 29 Ivana Mazepy St. 288-5419
honchar.org.ua
Ukrainian House
2 Khreshchatyk St. 278-8490
ukrdim.org.ua
Mytets Gallery
12 Velyka Vasylkivska St., 234-4006, 236-8919
Chaika airfield
Petropavlivska Borschahivka village 424-8293
dropzone.kiev.ua
National Writers Academy of Art
10 Heroiv Stalingrada St. 410-9310, 419-8777
National University of Physical Training and Sports
1 Fykyulnury str. 287-5452
uni-sport.edu.ua
NSC Olimpiyskiy
St. Velyka Vasylkivska 55 0800-50-5750
nsc-olimpiyskiy.com.ua
National Museum of Taras Shevchenko
12 Shevchenko Blv. 234-2556
museumshevchenko.org.ua
Anti-Art Center
21 Prorizna St. http://fakeart.com.ua
Camera photo gallery
22 Prorizna St. www.gallerycam.org 279-5070
Olmacee Plage
Hydropark metro stop 232-2244
http://www.nasha-karta.ua/
Outdoor cinema
31 Nyzhnyourkivska St. http://kinokombo.blogspot.com/
Kyiv Photography School
30 Velyka Vasylkivska. Office 4

- 235-1744
Akvamarin wellness club
136, Peremogy Ave. 277-1737, 277-1725
http://aquamarin.kiev.ua
Fazenda Bar
2B Vorovskogo St. www.fazendabar.com
Golfstream club
Gavronshchyna village, Kyiv region 067-403-66-41
www.kievgolffclub.com
X-Park
Entertainment complex Druzhyb Narodiv Park www.xpark.kiev.ua 229-2617
Babuini
10 Petliury St. www.babuini.ua 8-050-356-3326
Dark Side
14a Igorivska St. 428-8838
067-659-9175
www.darksid.kiev.ua
Atribut Gallery
30b Shovkovychna St. 253-4135
www.tribut.com.ua
National Taras Shevchenko Museum
12 Shevchenko Blvd. 224-2556, 224-2553
www.shevchenkomuseum.com.ua
AVS-ART gallery
10b Vozdvizhenska St. 425-9090
avsart.com.ua
Kyivan Fortress
24 Forsitalna St. 235-0146
AKKO International
40-B, Peremogy Ave. 456-3804
acco.ua
Natural History Museum
15 Bohdana Khmelnytskyogo St. 235-6266
museumkiev.org



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UKRAINE:

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Yes.
No.
Maybe.

At the **Kyiv Post**, we try to hold an optimistic view because to do otherwise simply is not that productive.

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That's why we are holding what has become known as "**The Tiger Conference**", that we believe will be the most influential public conference of 2012 you don't want to miss.

MONDAY, November 26

COCKTAIL RECEPTION with Keynote Speakers and Special Guests



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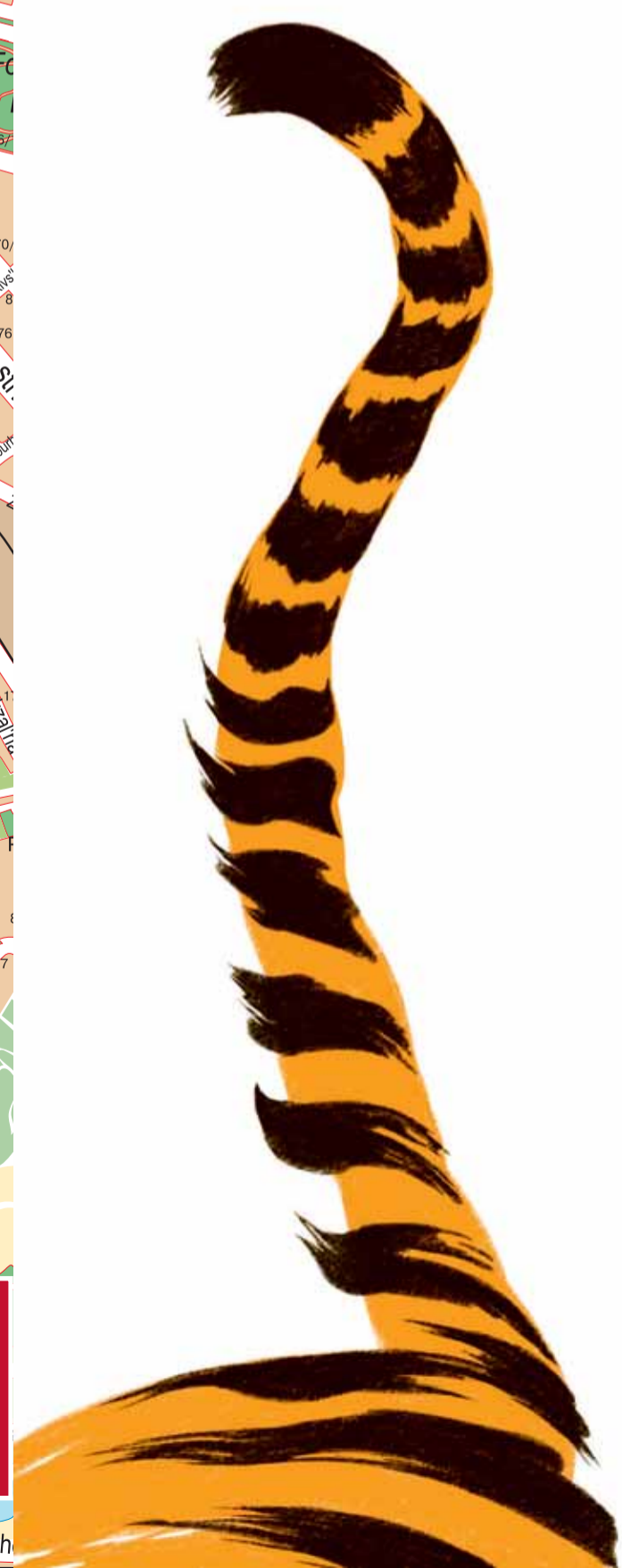
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Information Partners

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FOR INFORMATION:

Kateryna Kalendruz, Kyiv Post Special Projects Coordinator
+38 050 311 38 04 - kalendruz@kyivpost.com



Where: Obolon district of Kyiv
Polling stations: 79
Number of voters: 171,683
Number of candidates: 25
Remarks: No clear favorite in crowded constituency



Supporters of parliamentary candidate Vadym Stolar, a current pro-presidential lawmaker, ride segways along Obolon's promenade near the Dnipro River. (Courtesy).

Kyiv's Obolon district 217's field is so crowded that four members of parliament are running

→ **1** Four current members of parliament are running, of whom two are members of the pro-presidential Party of Regions, yet they're officially running as independents.

There's also two Kyiv City Council members, a political consultant turned politician, and former professor, now businessman running as well.

Vasyl Gureyev is the pro-presidential candidate. Running as an independent, Gureyev is looking to gain a legislative seat for the fourth consecutive time. He was economy minister and minister of industrial policy in the late 1990s and early 2000s under former President Leonid Kuchma.

The opposition's main contender is Kyiv City Council member Oleksandr Bryhynets. He's a former journalist who is a vociferous local campaigner on the capital's committee of culture and tourism. This begs the question of who'll defend Kyiv's interests should he win a seat in parliament?

Another visible candidate is 30-year-old Party of Regions lawmaker Vadym Stolar. He's also hiding under the independent category, and lives in Vyshgorod, although he was born and raised in Obolon. He's reportedly friends with former Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky's son Stepan. The Kyiv Post has noticed Stolar fixing up playgrounds, soccer fields, and deliver gardening supplies to residents. After painting the fence and pouring new sand on a boxed field recently, Stolar's landscapers left a horse stand with Stolar's picture that read: "I'm a man of action, and let my deeds do the talking for me."

The other lawmakers running are Volodymyr Lanoviy and Oleh Novikov, both from the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc.

Kyiv City Council member Vitaliy Lavrenenko of Chernovetsky's bloc is another contender. In May of last year Kyiv City Council secretary Halyna Herera named Lavrenenko one of the

nine most truant council members in the capital's legislature.

Then there's prominent political consultant Vadym Karasiov of Viktor Baloha's Yedyniy Tsentri Party. He says he wants to bring back parliamentarianism into the legislature where many seats are occupied by businessmen, or representatives of vested interests. It'll be interesting to see whether Karasiov can apply his vast knowledge of theory into practice.

And Vitali Klitschko's UDAR (Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform) has Yuriy Krykunov running in Obolon. He's a former physics professor who entered the private sector in 2010. Krykunov heads UDAR's Podil party branch.

There are plenty of choices, the good thing is that the candidates are eager to talk to voters, and that's what they should be doing.

Kyiv Post staff writer Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com.

Kyiv's Dnipro district 216 race between Yanukovych, opposition candidates

→ **1** prime minister and failed to get into parliament in 2002 during her first try with Our Ukraine, but made it in 2006.

She evidently didn't make Batkivshchyna's Party list, having recently left the Our Ukraine faction, but now is running under the mantle of the opposition Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko. She currently is the deputy chair of parliament's committee on industrial and regulatory policy and entrepreneurship. A native of Kyiv, Lyapina has been a critic of several laws passed by the pro-presidential majority in parliament, including the tax code, which she says makes the underground economy bigger, and the law on public procurement, which has been criticized for making corruption in that sector easier.

She faces Oleksandr Suprunenko, a pro-presidential Party of Regions lawmaker who is running as an independent. Suprunenko's brother, Viacheslav, was once married to ex-Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky's daughter, Khrystyna.

Suprunenko also was a Kyiv City Council member in 2006-2007 with his brother Viacheslav before being elected to parliament for the first time in 2007. Viacheslav is currently wanted for assault related to a criminal case that was opened in April 2011. Suprunenko is a native of this district and he says his law firm has provided thousands of residents with pro bono legal assistance.

The other lawmaker is Volodymyr Herasymchuk, of speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn's bloc. Not surprisingly, Herasymchuk is running as an independent.

Nominally, Danylo Svyschchuk is the Party of Regions' candidate. Little is known about him except for that he's a business executive and chairman of a charity fund. He's running on a platform to continue the reforms launched by President Viktor Yanukovych's administration.

Kyiv Post staff writer Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com

Where: Dnipro district of Kyiv
Polling stations: 74
Number of voters: 158,938
Number of candidates: 27
Remarks: A clear choice: Opposition lawmaker vs. pro-presidential lawmaker.



Having entered politics as a small business advocate, opposition lawmaker Ksenya Lyapina is the United Opposition's candidate in Kyiv's Dnipro district (UNIAN).

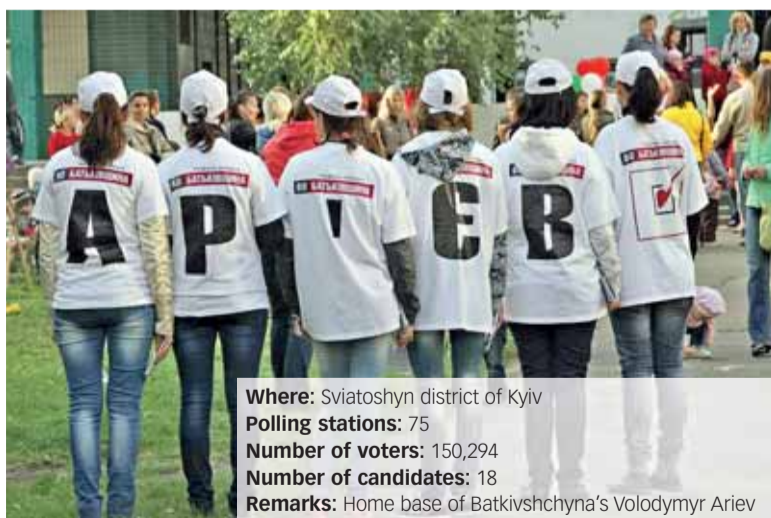
Sviatoshyn native son faces two millionaires in District 218

→ **1** he's running against two millionaires.

Ariev, nonetheless, has legitimate challengers in developer and Kyiv City Council member Lev Partskhaladze and lawmaker Oleksandr Tretiakov.

There are other contenders running, like Poltava Oblast's former governor Valery Asadchev and Party of Regions member Oleh Kalashnikov, who became famous for staging rallies outside the Pechersk District Court in opposition to Tymoshenko. He recorded long tirades against her, accusing the former prime minister of being a traitor who sold out the country during her abuse-of-office trial. Neither Asadchev nor Kalashnikov appear to be making much headway in Sviatoshyn, according to polls.

Ariev's aide, Serhiy Skorobahatko, told the Kyiv Post that the candidate is using his home field advantage the old fashioned way – through door-to-door, courtyard-to-courtyard campaigning. And he's doing this on a daily basis for hours at a time. Ariev and his team distribute fold-out chairs to residents, sit and just talk to voters.



Six campaigners for Sviatoshyn native Volodymyr Ariev wear t-shirts that spell out his last name (Courtesy).

"His parents worked in the neighborhood, his father at a chemical factory, his mother taught at a school, he grew up here, he knows a lot of people," Skorobahatko said.

His rivals downplayed the native son benefits of Ariev's campaign.

Partskhaladze said he also lived in the area since he moved at the age of 15 to Kyiv from Georgia. The voter district also includes small parts of Podil, Obolon and the wooded Pushcha Vodytsia area of the capital.

"Big deal, I went to school in the

area, I could also be considered a native son," said Partskhaladze, a self-made millionaire. Partskhaladze told the Kyiv Post his poll numbers have him neck-in-neck with Ariev.

"As a city councilman, I'm in a better position to talk to people about what's happening in Kyiv."

Lev Partskhaladze

Partskhaladze's main liability is the fact that he jumped ship to the pro-presidential faction from Vitali Klitschko's UDAR (Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform) Party after he got elected into the Kyiv City Council.

"Plus builders aren't popular people in Kyiv, just look at how developers have scarred the city," said Tretiakov. Once a powerful backer of ex-President Viktor Yushchenko, Tretiakov is a skillful campaigner. He also de-emphasized Ariev's local roots.

"Look, I'm also from Kyiv. Nobody divides it into neighborhoods," Tretiakov told the Kyiv Post. "I visited the school that Ariev attended, and you know what, they ended up supporting me...plus people are disappointed with

the current lot of politicians – there are some 40 percent undecided in this district."

Tretiakov said his polls show he's in close second place but that his main competitor is Partskhaladze who he says is the pro-presidential candidate. He said his rating has been rising the fastest in the constituency.

Oleksandr Tretiakov

Still Ariev's campaign poll numbers paint a different picture. Ariev so far leads with 16 percent, Partskhaladze comes in distant second with 8 percent, while Tretiakov has only one percent.

"We're more concerned with how the election commissions will behave in the constituency, they're stacked with people from dummy parties," said Skorobahatko.

And should Ariev get re-elected, he plans to cement the district with local representation in the city council. The city's legislature will have new councilmen voted in 2014, and Sviatoshyn gets allotted several from its district.

Kyiv Post staff writer Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com

Election Watch

Oct. 28 parliamentary election



Who kept their promises in 2007? Who will in 2012?

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO AND ANASTASIA FORINA

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Ukrainians can be excused for feeling elections are as exciting as boiling potatoes. Though political parties come and go, the same people getting voted in with the same results.

Party of Regions, Batkivshchyna, Nasha Ukraina (Our Ukraine), the Communists – the same names appear time and again on voting lists, adding to a reservoir of broken promises.

The latest survey by Ukrainian think tank Razumkov shows more than half of Ukrainians (57 percent) say they will look at a candidate's track record before voting. Yet political analysts are skeptical about the interest of average voters.

"In Ukraine neither people nor media usually monitor performance (in terms of) candidate's promises," says political analyst Volodymyr Kornilov. "And politicians can always find the excuses – they lack time, a constitutional majority, get spokes in the wheels etc." Kornilov said.

Both the current ruling coalition and opposition have alternated power for the last five years: the opposition from October 2007 to April 2010 (Nasha Ukraina, Narodna Samooborona and the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko) and since April 2010, for the ruling coalition (the pro-president Party of Regions, Communist Party, Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn's bloc).

The Kyiv Post compared past and present election programs of the biggest currently running political parties, marking unfulfilled and fulfilled promises with plus (+) or minus (-) respectively. A plus-minus combo denotes partially fulfillment.

The programs of Vitali Klitschko's Ukrainian Development Alliance of Reforms and Ukraine-Forward! Party are not included, since they have never held seats in parliament. Various opposition factions have been combined into a single section.

Scorecard of political promises kept and unfulfilled

2007	2012
Party of Regions	
Child allowance of Hr 11,700 (\$1,450) for the first child, Hr 25,000 for the second one and Hr 50,000 for the third and every next child. +	Child allowance of Hr 28,830 for the first child, Hr 57,660 for the second child and Hr 115,320 for every one after the third.
Make higher education more accessible. No less than 50 percent of university places will be state funded. -	No less than 75 percent of university places will be state funded.
Allow young families to live in municipal housing for 10 years to save money and buy their own place. -	Allow young families to access housing through subsidized 3 percent per annum mortgages and social contracts with employers.
Give teachers, doctors, culture sector workers and other public sector employees apartments for entering a 20 year employment contract. -	Raise doctors' salaries to Hr 8,000 and teachers by 20 percent.
Protect free speech to provide a mechanism for transparency and social control. -	Provide intellectual freedom and freedom of speech.
Make Russian the second state language in Ukraine. +	Give Russian a status of state language.
Join the European Union and World Trade Organization to improve citizen's welfare. -	Sign an association agreement with the European Union, create a free trade area and remove visa barriers between Ukraine and the EU.
Communist Party of Ukraine	
Turn Ukraine into a parliamentary-presidential republic. -	Abolish the institute of the presidency.
Lower prices for utilities, public transport and essential commodities. -	Communal services will not exceed 10% of family income
Establish a monopoly for the production of alcohol and tobacco. -	Establish a state monopoly for the production and sales of alcohol and tobacco.
Launch programs dealing with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and protecting its victims. -	Strengthen the state protection for Chernobyl victims.
Return Soviet-era savings and interest to the people during the next five years. +	Return Soviet-era savings and interest to the people, taking into account their real value as of Jan. 1, 1992.
Build social housing, financed by state and local budgets. -	Launch large-scale construction of social housing.
Nasha Ukraina – Narodna Samooborona (Our Ukraine – National Self-Defense), BYUT Batkivshchyna (Homeland) - United Opposition	
Cancel deputies' immunity. (NU-NS) -	Cancel the immunity of deputies, judges and the president.
Establish a national anti-corruption bureau. (NUNS) -	Establish a national anticorruption bureau.
Open a modern "Children's Hospital of the Future" in Kyiv. (NUNS) -	Make medical treatment in Ukraine affordable for everyone (no mention of the hospital).
Join the World Trade Organization by 2008. (NUNS) +	Implement a visa free regime with EU states and establish partnership with the Russian Federation.
Enter a free trade area and implement visa facilitation agreement with EU countries. (NUNS, BYUT) +	Ratify the association agreement with the EU states and enter a free trade area with them.
Implement jury trials. (BYUT) -	Liquidate the Constitutional Court
Guaranteed first jobs for young people. (BYUT) -	Pass legislation to guarantee employment for graduates who studied full-time.
Reimburse within four years all stolen and depreciated Soviet-era savings. (BYUT) +	No mention of Soviet-era savings in the latest program.
Fight against state racket. Allow tax inspections only once in a three year period. (BYUT) -	Liquidate the tax police.
Child allowance of Hr 12, 000 (\$1,450) for the first child, Hr 25,000 for the second one and Hr 50,000 for the third and every next child. +	No mention of child allowance increase in the latest program.

Threats to free speech, press rising in Ukraine

→ 1 WBC world heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko.

A big Regions victory, the opposition fears, will lead to a rollback of the social and civil liberties gained in the Orange Revolution.

One feature of the Ukrainian press which never died out even under Yushchenko's presidency is the practice of paid-for "news" - colloquially known in Ukraine as 'jeansa' - deriving from the idea of slipping money into the back pocket of jeans.

Telekrytika, a Ukrainian web-based media watchdog, says as much as \$80,000 will change hands for a leading politician to ensure a guest appearance on a popular TV show, while a 20-second TV sound-bite in a news bulletin may cost just \$200.

"There is a complete frenzy now ahead of the elections. Deputies are now shamelessly paying not just the

journalists but their managers and the editors above them," Sokolenko said.

Knyazhitsky of TVi said politicians regularly extended lucrative offers to get the station to insert a screen-shot or sound-bite of their candidates into news bulletins.

"They say to us: 'We'll place our party's advertising with you as long as you feature reports about our politicians.' This is common practice on the Ukrainian television market," he told Reuters, adding that TVi refused these offers.

STB channel, where Sokolenko worked, was unavailable for comment on whether it practised 'jeansa'.

The Internet is more free, but at the same time even more susceptible to 'jeansa' as most bloggers and Web news outlets do not even pretend to be balanced or neutral.

Media circles say it is standard practice

President says he will defend freedom of speech

now for Yanukovich's aides to call prominent TV channels to provide direction on how specific issues should be handled.

Replying to a question from Reuters, Yanukovich's administration said the leadership was committed to the principle of defending the free press against "any pressure or interference", though

it said the approach to the election could be marked by "increased emotion" and "provocative actions".

"The authorities will react sharply to any violations of freedom of expression," it said in a statement.

Yanukovich himself regularly speaks out in support of a free press and in New York last week criticised a draft law presented by a Regions deputy that would re-criminalise libel.

The deputy, Vitaly Zhuravsky, who sought to make libel punishable by up to five years in jail, argued it was needed to secure the integrity of the election.

Ukraine, he said, was following the lead of Russia - though similar legislation there does not provide for any prison term.

The move raised alarm among journalists who said it would curb their ability to expose wrong-doing in high places.

"The parliamentary majority is using a law on libel as a disguise for bringing in a law on censorship," wrote Vitaly Sych, editor-in-chief of Korrespondent weekly magazine whose Sept. 28 issue carried a whited-out cover in protest at what it said was a move to gag the free press.

Though the proposed law was dropped on Oct. 2, opposition leaders expect the Regions to resurrect it if the party strengthens its position in parliament.

Early last month, Yanukovich endured an embarrassing moment when a dozen Ukrainian journalists stood up and raised anti-censorship banners as he hailed Ukraine's march to greater media freedom at a World Newspaper Congress in Kyiv.

Even as he spoke, his security guards ripped banners saying "Stop Censorship" from protesters' hands.

Khoroshkovskiy: EU ties are improving steadily

→4 public finance management in line with international standards and should unfreeze EU macro-financial assistance. These were clear demands from the EU and I think they helped us mobilize support to these important changes.

There is a lot more to come as Ukraine adopted a plan for adjusting its laws to the EU standards, and it's being carried out. The framework strategy for customs cooperation between Ukraine and the EU has been approved. It encourages greater information exchange and introduction of an effective risk management system in combating customs violations.

Regarding adjustment to the EU standards, I believe that reforming the judicial system and legislation is vital for Ukraine and, if unresolved, would obstruct any kind of progress.

That is why it's crucial that the new code of criminal procedure was adopted, which is called to ensure reforms in the sphere of criminal justice.

Several laws were amended to give more guarantees of independence to the judiciary in Ukraine. The Law of Ukraine on the Bar and Practice of Law was adopted, which will promote reforms in the organization of the bar and carrying out practice of law in accordance with universal standards of democracy.

The coordination center on legal advice was created within the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and the Concept of the Targeted State Program on free legal counseling system in 2013-2017 was introduced.

On Oct. 10, the government adopted a number of resolutions related to European integration, particularly on external integrated border management, institutional reform of Ukrainian public administration in order to prepare implementation of the future association agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, on increasing benefits and minimizing negative effects of the

DCFTA. These are just element of the comprehensive and consistent every day work towards European integration, which unfortunately has been overshadowed by spicier news. However, I hope that step by step we will create a critical positive mass of changes in this area, which would help us disperse clouds over the EU - Ukraine relations.

Cooperation in energy sector

I would particularly like to stress the government's effort to introduce European standards in the energy sector. Within the framework of the Agreement on Energy Community we made a number of steps to ensure uninterrupted power supply to consumers and investment in infrastructure. Alos, a number of laws was amended, including the law on pipeline transportation, on reforms in oil and gas complex, and the law on electricity.

Ukraine granted third parties access to the gas transportation system and is going towards unbundling of Naftogaz. There are three major reconstruction and modernization projects taking place, at the gas pipeline Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod, compressor station Soyuz, and Uherske underground gas storage.

Identifying challenges

At the same time, there are plenty of challenges left. Some of them are for us to face, some for the EU, but most of them we can address together. Strengthening institutional capacity and improving public administration is one essential condition for successful integration with Europe. We need to improve quality of public administration and work closely in this respect with European experts.

Business and investment climate is another challenge we're facing, and there are some improvements here, especially related to customs and VAT

reimbursement. But we're not there yet.

There are some issues within the range of EU's responsibilities, such as the practice of visa issuance by EU embassies. A recent expert poll of Civic Initiative "Europe without Barriers" shows that despite have a common legal framework on visa procedures, some member states have stricter requirements for visa applicants. There have been cases of ungrounded refusals or humiliating treatment of Ukrainian citizens by some EU embassies. Experts point out some non-transparent visa policies among some EU member states. I was in particular impressed by researches and public activities of the Civic Initiative "Europe without Barriers" in this respect.

Democratic elections

But, of course, the main attention will be focused now on upcoming Ukrainian elections, which can potentially give a new momentum to the EU-Ukraine relationship. The election campaign is now in full gear, and I am confident that the Oct. 28 election will be held in accordance with the international standards.

We are determined to cooperate with the international monitoring missions. Invitations to participate in the electoral process were extended to international observers from OSCE, European Parliament, Council of Europe, NATO etc. long in advance. An interdepartmental group was created in the government in order to secure transparent and fair elections.

To ensure transparency, the Law of Ukraine On peculiarities of openness, transparency and democratic elections of deputies of Ukraine was adopted. The law introduces a system of video surveillance, video recording and image broadcasting from polling facilities and is called to ensure fair monitoring of the polls and vote counting at polling stations during the elections.

Ukrainian ombudswoman appointed her representative to ensure electoral rights of citizens and the Public Committee for the Protection of active electoral rights of citizens was established to monitor the election process (following the recommendations of the International Organization «Freedom House» and supported by the International Renaissance Foundation).

It is quite difficult to predict the final outcome of the election, but I am confident that European integration will remain a top priority regardless of who comes to power.

Regardless of internal scenarios in Ukraine and financial difficulties within the EU that some have already labeled "the autumn of discontent," the work needs to go on to bring a visa free regime to citizens and free movement of goods, capitals and services within free trade area to entrepreneurs.

Integration is a matter of choice. It is a matter of good sense, a matter of being in the heart of global processes, not on the periphery.

Ukraine has made a decisive strategic choice when European integration was determined as our prime goal. Politicians might have changed during the 21 year of independence of Ukraine, but this choice was never doubted by any president or prime minister.

Some push us towards balancing on a tightrope over our European choice and our partnership with Russia. While in reality, EU integration of Ukraine is equally beneficial for all of our partners, as much for the EU as for the Russian Federation.

However, Ukraine wishes to be a credible partner to all of its neighbors. Opposing East to West is an unacceptable approach that leads to deadlock in both directions.

Valeriy Khoroshkovskiy is the first deputy prime minister of Ukraine, and former head of the State Security Service and the State Customs Service.



Needy protesters

Victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster protest outside the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Oct. 10 against cuts in government benefits. (UNIAN)

Back Story: Journalism myths, gruff editors, typewriters, smoky newsrooms



MICHAEL WILLARD

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Danny Hinson ruled his square patch of the Orlando Sentinel newsroom as though he were Gen. George Patton in a white, rumpled short-sleeved shirt, the rat-a-tat-tat of his manual typewriter filling in for the staccato bursts of a machine gun. He was energized by a nearby pot of black coffee.

Hinson was an earlier brand of city editor, back in the sepia-tinted '60s, when an editor still might yell "stop the presses," a term I actually heard once when the police were moving in on a big-time killer, and the bad guy would be on his way to the morgue in a matter of moments.

Thinking back, there really isn't that much difference between the Sentinel

newsroom then and the Kyiv Post today. Substitute computers for manual typewriters and a non-smoking policy for a veil of smoke hanging in the air and the differences are marginal. A newsroom is a newsroom.

The myths that surround the craft remain pretty much the same, as well. People still comment that "reporters only care about selling newspapers," or blame reporters for asking "the wrong questions" when an interview goes badly.

I vividly remember Danny taking calls from people wanting the newspaper to cover their pet event. After quickly losing interest in the conversation, he shouted: "You need to talk to the city editor. He's not in." Hinson, the city editor, would then slam the phone down - and smile impishly. It was a daily occurrence.

Editors do tend to be more polite these days. Kyiv Post chief editor Brian Bonner has many of the qualities of editors from a bygone era, but he's rather gracious and patient with people

peddling minor happenings as hot news. Sometimes, anyway.

Anchoring the other three spots on this city desk island back then were Buck Liddel (we used Frank in the byline for fear of the obvious typo), Elvis Lane, a refugee from PR; and the 18-year-old kid called Willard who wrote obits, took dictation from line bureaus and, occasionally, covered a minor story.

Back then - before Disney World put Orlando on the map - only white people died in the main edition of the Sentinel. The "pink" edition - so named for the color of the newsprint - was for African-Americans. Likewise, murder and mayhem in white Orlando was news; but in black neighborhoods it was ho-hum.

In terms of the craft, I was taught more in one year of working nights and weekends for the Sentinel than I did during my entire university experience. Yet the business has changed drastically: Newspapers are pedaling backwards, most shrinking in size,

some going belly-up like whales on a beach.

Some things never change, though: They are the truisms that give journalists a certain cache, which makes them not just different - definitely not better - but, more interesting in that a good reporter studies and knows a little about a lot - everything from dry government reports to the backs of cereal boxes.

It's called curiosity. If a reporter doesn't have it, he or she is not really a reporter.

Gruff Danny Hinson was from a different era. He would be an anachronism today. He went on to that city desk in the sky long ago, but certain myths about the news business remain fixed in the universal mind. They have become clichés seen on television.

For example, "all reporters want to do is sell newspapers." I've never met a journalist yet who made a connection between the number of newspapers sold and his or her ability to be paid. In pursuing an article, most think simply

about getting a good story, preferably on the front page above the fold.

They also want to collect a portfolio of "bell-ringer" stories that will move them, career-wise, from the Podunk Post to the Washington Post, or to some other similarly prestigious publication.

Another oft-heard complaint is that a reporter didn't ask the right questions. The burden of delivering a news story is not on the reporter, but on the person being interviewed. There is a saying in the media training business: "There are no bad questions - just bad answers."

I am reminded of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. He showed up for a news conference, and dozens of reporters were prepared to pepper him with questions as he stood in the glare of the lights of the TV network cameras.

Kissinger looked up from the podium and said: "I sure hope you people have questions for all my answers."

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Living dolls walk streets of Odesa

City Life



WITH OLGA RUDENKO
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Watermelon, lobster and others at Ukrainian Fashion Week

Every invitation to Ukrainian Fashion Week's ready-to-wear shows has the following warning on it: "Parking is limited." And every year traffic jams near Mystetsky Arsenal at Mazepa Street indicate that guests ignore the warning.

Unlike fashion weeks abroad, the Ukrainian version focuses on a single location for shows. Another noticeable difference is the lack of changes to the schedule. It seems like it would be considered a crime if the opening show wouldn't be by Lilia Poustovit and followed by Victoria Gres. At least that is what the schedule has been for years.

It's not only the schedule that is best described as "stable," but also the collections.

At the Summer-Spring 2013 fashion week that kicked off on Oct. 10, Poustovit, Ukrainian fashion's long-playing "good girl," didn't take the risk of surprising anyone and went on with her normal cotton dresses, slacks of light fabrics and free-cut shirts. In Poustovit collections, clothing seems to be nothing but a base for putting prints on it. Colorful prints are her specialty and she works with them nicely, developing a new palette every season and putting it on same simple-form clothing. This time Poustovit confirmed her ethnic course, adding some charms-like jewelry to collection for the first time.

"Those charms do work, protecting you, even if you don't believe in such things," she said after the show.

It is unlikely that she needs those tricks to attract clients. Understandable and non-risky with her complex prints and simple shapes, Poustovit is reaching them well already. She sells her two apparels for multiple boutiques in Ukraine and abroad and designs shoes for Intertop, one of Ukraine's largest retailers.

The playing-it-safe style is common for most of UFW designers, at least for commercially successful ones. It seems to be based on a simple understanding of the target audience. Being sold at rather high prices, designers' clothing has a limited audience. People who can afford it mostly come from conservative fields like business and politics, and what they want is intelligible, plain-design and expensive-looking clothes.

The small exception can be made for show business people. TV host and high life reporter Katya Osadchaya often chooses Ukrainian designers' dresses for her TV appearances, combining it with some risky accessories. At the first day of UFW, Oct. → 21

BY OLGA RUDENKO
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She is just 19 but she's already the star of many publications, has made several TV appearances and has thousands of fans on Youtube and Facebook. But Anastasia Shpagina from Odesa is no famous singer or movie star. She's famous for her freaky anime-like look.

To prepare her claim to fame – her face – Shpagina spends two to three hours each day putting on her extreme makeup, making her eyes enormous and reducing her nose and lips. Special blue contacts and white-pale skin add to the anime look. Waist-long pink hair and dreamy dresses complete it.

Shpagina says she sees herself as a fairy, living in her own dream world, and says she doesn't like her normal face. She adopted the anime look after finishing high school.

A hair stylist and makeup artist, she wakes up at 5 a.m. to make it to the work for 9 a.m., using that time to put on her mask. Her "fairy" make up tutorial video has been viewed more than four million times.

Her mother Tetiana Shpagina told local Ukraine TV station that she is proud of her daughter. Incredulous fans from all over the world comment on her photos in social networks, writing "Is she human?" A college student from the U.S. even recorded a marriage proposal video for the living anime girl, calling her "the answer to his prayers."

But Shpagina is not alone in her extreme appearance.

Also from Odesa, Valeria Lukianova, age unknown, became internationally famous as the "living Barbie from Ukraine." The blond woman with a doll-like face and 86-47-86 measurements wears tons of makeup but claims the only plastic surgery she's been through is breast enhancement. She claims her freakishly small waist is natural, though longtime Internet fans say she once confessed to having two ribs removed. Lukianova sticks to the breast-surgery-only version.

At a local TV show she explained the changes in her appearance saying "her higher person set the conditions for (how I look)."

In interviews Lukianova sometimes mentions her husband, who, she says, fully supports her interests.

Lukianova says she doesn't eat → 21



Anastasia Shpagina, 19, poses as a fairy. Her extreme anime look brought Shpagina thousands of fans and intense media attention. (Courtesy)

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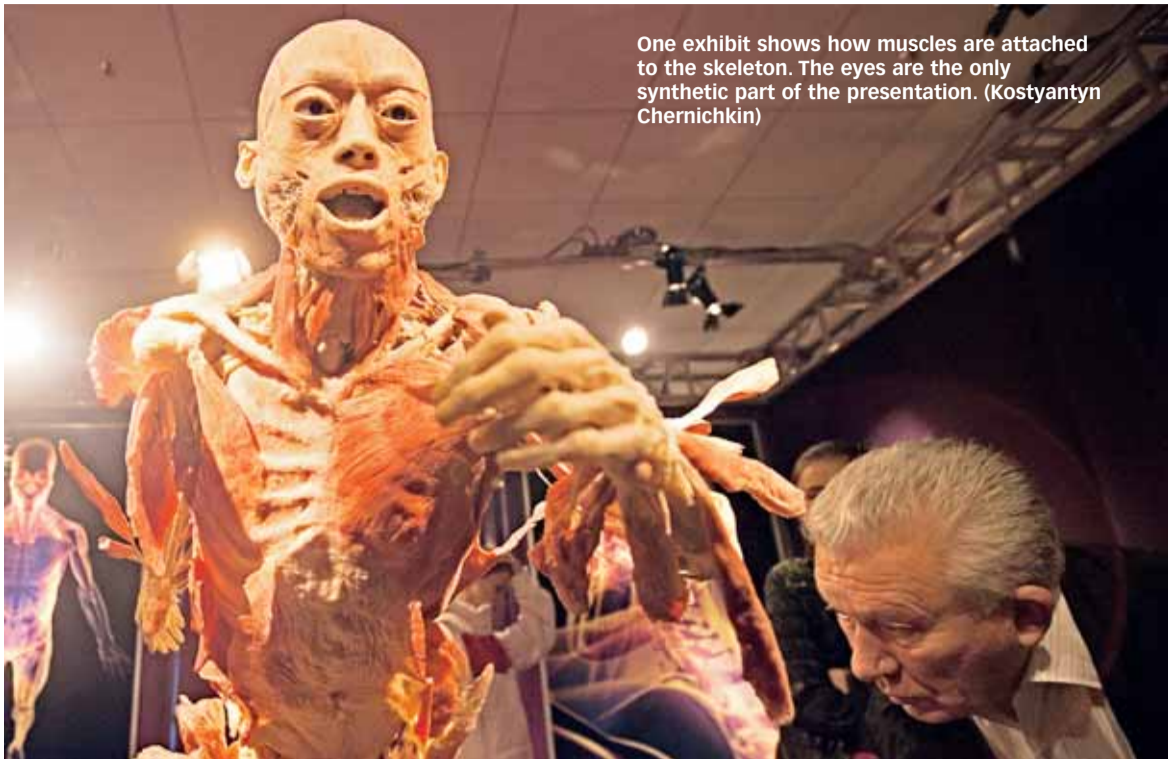


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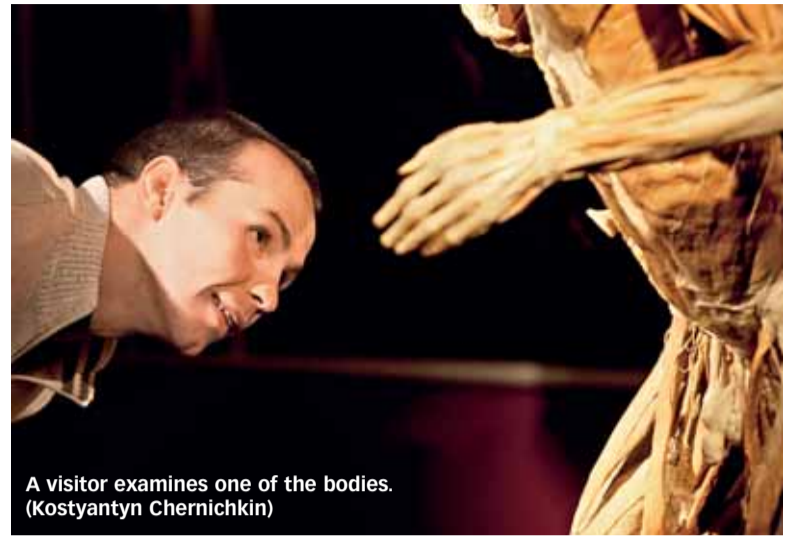


The series explores Ukraine's bilateral relations, this time with the United Kingdom of Great Britain. Special focus is given to UK businesses working in Ukraine, their achievements and the challenges they face.

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One exhibit shows how muscles are attached to the skeleton. The eyes are the only synthetic part of the presentation. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



A visitor examines one of the bodies. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



In the bones gallery of exhibition, a guide explains the finer points of the human skeleton. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Educational exhibit shows off all parts of human bodies

BY OLGA RUDENKO
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The body parts of Chinese people dead for more than 10 years are now on display at Olympic Stadium, part of an American exhibit that arrived in Kyiv in September. Glass showcases show organs separately, while bodies are on display openly. Some of them stand cut in pieces to demonstrate human body entrails.

Gruesome, for sure. But also educational, say the exhibit organizers.

"This is not art, this is clear education," says Dmitry Zhembotky, who represents HK Exhibitions. Contrary to some media accounts, he adds, the display has nothing to do with Gunther von Hagens, the scandalous taxidermist known for dead bodies art exhibitions.

What The Human Body and von

Hagens have in common is the method used to prepare samples. Bodies and organs are all plasticized, a process that can take up to a year, replacing all the water in human tissue with silicone. Such silicone-filled bodies don't decay, have no smell and can preserve their natural look for centuries.

The exhibition occupies nine halls and counts about 130 samples, ranging from full bodies to individual organs. Each gallery contains specific samples illustrating how one of the body's systems works. For example, the muscular system is presented with a body frozen in a running pose, with muscles wrested in a way to show how they are attached.

All bodies and organ samples come from China and were produced there in the 1990s. The names of the people whose body parts are exhibited are unknown, but all willingly bequeathed

their bodies to science and died of natural causes, not infectious diseases or murders.

The full-body samples are all male, with one exception. One female body, in the digestion hall, is cut into three lengthwise layers to show how digestive organs look inside the body.

"We treat bodies with respect," says Zhembotky. "If some samples fall into a state of disrepair, they are to be cremated."

Organizers also ban photos throughout most of the exhibit, so that visitors don't take offensive snapshots.

Each of the nine galleries has its own guide, usually a medical student, who answers questions and accompanies visitors on their visceral tours. According to them, children are the most enthusiastic attendants.

Tetiana Kryvykh, a guide working in the embryogenesis gallery, says her

section is a kids' favorite. Stillborn babies' bodies don't frighten them, but adults feel sick and have to get out quickly.

"They usually ask 'Why were these babies stillborn?' and I explain that this is because their mothers used to smoke and drink alcohol during pregnancy," says Kryvykh. "One little girl, after she heard this, went to her mother and said instructively 'See, you didn't smoke and that's why I'm healthy.'"

The exhibition also weighs heavy on healthy living. Showcases display a healthy liver next to one damaged by alcohol. The same goes for lungs, hoping to convince smokers to throw their cigarettes away. After three weeks a box next to the exhibit contained about fifty cigarette packs.

"(But) some people are tricky, they throw in empty packs," Zhembotky says.

Before coming to Ukraine, the exhibit toured the Czech Republic, Latvia, several cities in U.S. and other countries. However, it never went back

to China, where the samples were prepared, since local authorities won't allow it.

It presents a unique opportunity for Kyivans, as the city's only anatomy museum is in the National Medical University of Olexander Bogomolets, which the public can't access.

The Human Body exhibition will last until Dec. 23.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Rudenko can be reached at rudenko@kyivpost.com.

The Human Body Exhibition

Olympic Stadium, Western entrance Through Dec. 23

10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Hr 135, Hr 155 on weekends. Hr 50 for

kids under 12, Hr 105 for teenagers

under 18. Hr 110 for students. Hr 105

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Fashionable stroll

Lilia Poustovit's opening show was all about prints, more complicated now than ever. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

→ 19 10, she was spotted wearing a simulated lobster in her hair.

Fashion weeks are as much about guests showing off their looks as it is



TV host Katya Osadchaya wears a lobster hat. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

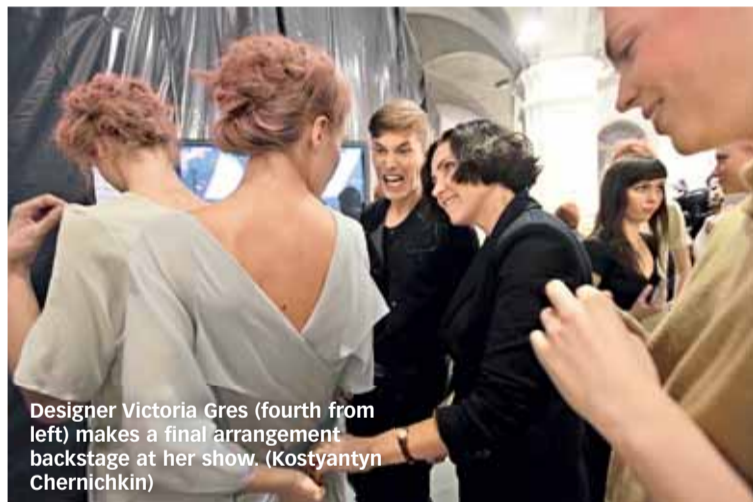
about designers showing off the collections. In that sense, Osadchaya's lobster hat was a breath of fresh air, since most posh show business persons and socialites clearly prefer showing off brands, not ideas. This year there must have been a disclaimer somewhere, warning that one won't be allowed to the fashion week unless wearing red-sole Louboutin shoes. And perhaps another one, strictly recommending to accompany red soles with Chanel 2.55 bag. Not that classic Bottega Veneta knot clutches were finally laid to rest.

It's far more refreshing to observe another category of the show's regulars - fashion bloggers and street-style

pacesetters - their number growing year-by-year. Ignoring the whole "posh look" idea, they come wearing denim shorts, colorful jackets and Converse shoes. At the fashion week's first day, the young woman with a traditional flowery shawl wrapped around her head, carrying a watermelon bag was the photographers' favorite treat.

Even though one watermelon and one lobster are not enough to beat up all the red soles, it seems like fresh air is coming, from guests if not from designers.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Rudenko can be reached at rudenko@kyivpost.com.



Designer Victoria Gres (fourth from left) makes a final arrangement backstage at her show. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Some gals go to freaky extremes

→ 19 anything except fresh juices and smoothies. She weighs 42 kilograms, despite a height of 172 centimeters.

While Shpagina seems to live normally with an abnormal look, Lukianova goes further. She claims to be Amatue, goddess of the sun, hailing from the Pleiades, a star cluster in the constellation of Taurus.

She tours with esoteric lectures, charging \$80 per ticket to her two-day presentations. There she speaks about her previous lives, her cosmic origin, her out-of-body experiences and meditations. Over 232,000 people have subscribed to her Amatue page on the Vkontakte network, and her Youtube channel has almost 14 millions views.

She also seems to have started a trend. On her website, www.amatue21.com, young women upload photos of themselves in doll-like make-up and poses. Her Vkontakte account has photos of her and her friend Olga Oleinik as two Barbies posing together.

Oleinik has followed the same path. She wears doll-like make-up, has body of a Barbie and claims to be engaged in esoteric practices. She names Lukianova as the person she spiritually closest to and has chosen Dominika as her spiritual name. Her Vkontakte account says she reads Carlos Castaneda and Osho, both mystics gurus. While Lukianova gives esoteric lectures, Oleinik designs clothes for "cosmic persons" like herself.



Olga Oleinik. (Courtesy)

Oleinik, as well as Lukianova and Shpagina, didn't respond to Kyiv Post inquiries for interviews.

Meanwhile, the online popularity of the Odesa dolls rises daily. While Shpagina's fans are happy enough with her make-up tutorials and tips, Lukianova's subscribers often ask her to "send a ray of light," for which she generously answers "I'm sending." Sexually harassing comments are also common, though they don't get much of a response.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Rudenko can be reached at rudenko@kyivpost.com.



Valeria Lukianova is known as the "living Barbie from Ukraine." (Courtesy)

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