

YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR BUSINESS!

Lavrynovych & Partners law firm

KYIV: 41 Saksaganskogo St. 01033 Ukraine tel.: +380 (44) 494-27-27

ODESA: 4 Bazarna St., office 7 65014 Ukraine fax: +380 (44) 492-99-97

CHICAGO: 8707 Skokie Blvd., Ste. 305 Skokie, Illinois 60077, USA E-mail: office@Lp.ua

www.Lp.ua

Subscribe to the

KyivPost

in 2013



KyivPost

17th Anniversary



vol. 17, issue 51/52

INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST

www.kyivpost.com

December 21, 2012

citi 200 YEARS

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

All of us at the Kyiv Post hope that your holidays are filled with love and laughter!

This is the last print edition of the Kyiv Post in 2012. We resume publication on Friday, Jan. 11, 2013. Until then, please go to www.kyivpost.com for all the latest news.

Looking Ahead TO 2013

US ambassador will leave with confidence in Ukraine



JOHN F. TEFFT

For 20 years, the U.S. has been a strong supporter of Ukrainian independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We remain so today. Ukraine is a country that matters to the U.S. and that will continue to matter not just in 2013 but into the future.

There are many reasons why: to start with, U.S. policy since the

fall of the Berlin Wall has been to work to create a Europe "whole, free, democratic, and at peace." That remains our objective today and Ukraine is one of Europe's key unfinished pieces.

In addition, Ukraine is a country with enormous potential. Ukraine has an educated, talented population of 46 million people and → 15

Honesty would help



VITALI KLITSCHKO

Editor's Note: The Kyiv Post asked several top government officials to write a column making predictions for 2013, but none responded.

The year 2013 will arrive despite the Mayan calendar and other apocalyptic forecasts.

Those people who are inclined to believe in mysticism and superstition tend to not like the number 13, the devil's dozen. Many hotels in the world, for example, have no 13th floor or rooms with that number. The Formula-1 race has no car number 13.

But there are no historic reasons to be afraid of the number. It was in the year 1913 that the Ukrainian artist Kazimir Malevich painted → 2

Mark these events on your new calendar



KATYA GORCHINSKAYA

Ukraine enters the New Year as head of the 57-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This international

forum – also known as the world's largest talking shop – is a way to highlight a country's achievements in arms and border control, human rights, equality and gender issues, and other issues within the organization's mission.

During its year of OSCE chairmanship, Ukraine chose for its mission to combat trafficking. The country has a → 16

Expect more turbulence ahead with Russia



IGOR GRETSKIY

Ukraine-Russia relations will remain strained next year. The glitter and pomp that surrounded the signing of 2010 Kharkiv Agreements – extending the stay

of Russia's navy in Crimea until 2042 in exchange for a gas discount – have faded away. As before, the price Ukraine pays Russia for natural gas and its potential membership in the Russia-led Customs Union with Belarus and Kazakhstan will top next year's agenda.

For Ukraine, the price of imported natural gas becomes → 16



These are some of the items on many wish lists for Ukraine in 2013. However, the realities are likely to be a lot less optimistic, our columnists say.

Inside:

Business → 6, 8 – 10

News → 2, 7

Opinion → 2, 4 – 7, 15, 16

Lifestyle → 17 – 21

Employment/Real Estate/Classifieds → 22, 23

CURRENCY WATCH

Hr 8.125 to \$1

Dec. 20 market rate



4 820131 720013 5 1

Advertising: +380 44 591-7788 advertising@kyivpost.com

Editorial staff: +380 44 591-3344 news@kyivpost.com

Subscriptions: +380 44 591-3408 subscribe@kyivpost.com

The material published in the Kyiv Post may not be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. All material in the Kyiv Post is protected by Ukrainian and international laws. The views expressed in the Kyiv Post are not necessarily the views of the publisher nor does the publisher carry any responsibility for those views.

Газета "Kyiv Post" видається ТОВ "Паблік-Медіа". Щотижневий наклад 20,000 прим. Ціна за домовленістю. Матеріали, надруковані в газеті "Kyiv Post" є власністю видавництва, захищені міжнародним та українським законодавством і не можуть бути відтворені у будь-якій формі без письмового дозволу Видавця. Думки, висловлені у дописах не завжди збігаються з поглядами видавця, який не бере на себе відповідальність за наслідки публікацій.

Засновник ТОВ "Паблік-Медіа"
Головний редактор Брайан Боннер
Адреса видавця та засновника співпадають: Україна, м. Київ, 01004, вул. Пушкінська, 31А, 6-й поверх.
Рестраційне свідоцтво Кв № 15261-3833ПР від 19.06.09.
Передплатний індекс ДП Преса 40528
Надруковано ТОВ «Новий друк», 02660, Київ, вулиця Магнітогорська, 1, тел.: 559-9147
Замовлення № 12-7221
Аудиторське обслуговування ТОВ АФ "ОЛГА Аудит"
З приводу розміщення реклами звертайтеся: +380 44 591-77-88
Відповідальність за зміст реклами несе замовник.

Mailing address:
Kyiv Post,
31A Pushkinska, Suite 600, 6th floor
Kyiv, Ukraine, 01004
Advertising
tel. +380 44 591-7788
fax +380 44 591-7789
advertising@kyivpost.com
Editorial staff
tel. +380 44 591-3344
fax +380 44 591-3345
news@kyivpost.com
Subscriptions
Elena Grysiuk
tel. +380 44 591-3408
fax +380 44 591-7789
subscribe@kyivpost.com
Distribution
Andrey Beley
tel. +380 44 591-3409
fax +380 44 591-7789
distribution@kyivpost.com

The best way TO REACH the largest group of English-speaking Ukrainians
Advertise in the **KyivPost**
For further information, call +380(44) 591-7788

KOSMO **АПТЕКА**
KOSMO - national chain of health & beauty shops
92shops and 30 drugstores all over Ukraine
Tel: + 38 044 206 21 77 www.kosmo.ua
NEW SHOP 45, Vyshgorodska Str., Kyiv
краса • здоров'я • сім'я

Eugenia Tymoshenko: My mother is 'hostage of political terrorists'

BY KATYA GORCHINSKAYA
GORCHINSKAYA@KYIPOST.COM

When Eugenia Tymoshenko celebrates the New Year, her mother will still be in prison and her father in exile.

This is the price for being the daughter of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who is serving a seven-year sentence for an abuse of office conviction that many in Ukraine and globally consider politically motivated.

In a typical week, Eugenia flies from Kyiv to Kharkiv and back a couple of times to see her mother, who is in a hospital still undergoing treatment for spinal hernia. The rest of the time she travels to the West to spread her message at as many seminars, meetings, conferences and hearings as possible.

She sees her father, Oleksandr Tymoshenko, only once every two months or so. He received political asylum in the Czech Republic almost a year ago. Recently, all his assets in Ukraine were frozen. Oleksandr Klymenko, head of the State Tax Service, said he failed to pay some fines and the assets were arrested to prevent them from being sold.

Eugenia almost never talks to the Ukrainian press about this. She does not trust most local media. She asked to be interviewed in English. And the way she quickly answers makes it clear there are few questions about Yulia she has not answered before in her frequent talks with Western media.

"She is a hostage of political terrorists," Eugenia said about her mother, who passed the 500-day imprisonment milestone on Dec. 20, when the Kyiv Post interviewed her daughter and only child.

Eugenia, 32, adds that not only was her mother "illegally trapped" and "deliberately isolated," she is still in pain and cannot walk without aid. She also said her mother remains under 24-hour surveillance.

"She is trying to use all her willpower to fight the disease and to fight the



Eugenia Tymoshenko during a Dec. 20 interview with the Kyiv Post. (Alexander Prokopenko)

pain, and to try to move more and try to go through treatment, under the watch of six cameras that are following her every move," Eugenia says. "It's very difficult psychologically every day to open your eyes and realize that three cameras have been watching you while you were asleep, and that every minute of your life is being watched and recorded, and then viewed by the male guards or somebody else... as a show.

"Her privacy in the past year-and-a-half, since she was arrested, has been completely violated," Eugenia says. Ukrainian law has no justification for such recordings, but appeals to local courts have failed to end the practice.

This is one of the issues that Yulia has asked the European Court for Human Rights to address. She has filed two appeals. The first one is over her detention, maltreatment, torture and

removal from public and political life. A ruling is expected in early 2013.

Eugenia expects it to be similar to the decision in the case of Yuriy Lutsenko, the former interior minister in Tymoshenko's government, who is also serving a sentence for abuse of office. "In some ways, it could maybe even have stronger wording," she hopes.

In July, the European court ruled Lutsenko's arrest was political and violated his rights. He was awarded 15,000 euros in compensation. The government, however, has failed to act on this ruling, and Eugenia says it's "a real concern" that the same will happen again in her mother's case.

"It can lead to the point when the Cabinet of Ministers of the Council of Europe will have to specify how this decision must be fulfilled in Ukraine," says Eugenia. She says the decision

normally specifies that the person who files the complaint has to be placed into the same circumstances as they had when their rights were breached.

"This means that Lutsenko and my mum – if her ruling is the same – should be free people," she says. "This gives real basis for the Council of Europe to demand the immediate release of my mother and Mr. Lutsenko."

Eugenia believes that it's possible that with pressure from the West, her mother will walk free.

That's why she welcomes actions like the revocation of the visa for First Deputy General Prosecutor Renat Kuzmin by the American government. She is also heartened by the investigation of the Latvian government into alleged corruption during the purchase of an oil rig in a deal in which Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko features prominently.

Eugenia says that even while in prison, her mother is reasonably well plugged into what's going on in Ukraine. She communicates as much as she can with and through her lawyers, and reads the news and documents they bring her.

"Recently, we have brought her the new Criminal Procedural Code that she studies," Eugenia says. "She is appalled and horrified by it, and I think she will issue her opinion about the new Criminal Procedural Code. It's just another anti-reform for Ukraine."

Andriy Portnov, the president's adviser on legal issues and co-author of the code, disagrees, however. "One of the main trends we see is a significant humanization," Portnov said on Dec. 20.

Yulia tried to be involved during the election, too. "She managed to unite the opposition; together with her colleagues she managed to get a very successful result in this election for the United Opposition," her daughter says, but admits it's hard to keep up from prison. Unlike other prisoners, →7

Klitschko: 2013 will be better

→1 his famous Black Square. That same year in the U.S., boxing legend Archie Moore was born. Eventually, he lost his titles to Rocky Marciano and Muhammad Ali, but those are truly great boxers, and it's no sin to lose to them.

So what does 2013 have in store for Ukraine?

Looking at the year through the Ukrainian budget, it's anything but good. The new/old government of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov decided to greet compatriots with the New Year by adding 13 hryvnias [about \$1.50] to the average salary. This isn't symbolism. It's cynicism and cruelty.

Nevertheless, I sincerely hope that the next year will be lucky for Ukraine. I would like to believe it. I also know that we all have to work hard to achieve it. The "we" here stands for

→ Politics must be rid of current cynicism, cruelty in government

politicians and members of parliament who have just been elected and who have promised people to change their lives for the better.

So far, the democratic opposition does not have the majority of votes in parliament. However, just the first days of

the new Verkhovna Rada have demonstrated that even a minority can stand up to destructive powers and behaviors and bring back to politics the notion of honesty and dignity.

Next year we are obliged to establish the kind of rules of the game that make it perfectly clear that voting with someone else's card in parliament, for example, is not acceptable. It's unacceptable to break laws and procedures even if power is in your hands.

We need to demonstrate that betraying the people by moving to other factions is not acceptable. We must not allow politicians to betray national interests by the push of a button or by the wave of one's arm that makes one vote by command. We're going to try to prove that politics can and should be honest. If we manage this task, it

will be a good and effective year in the country.

This new, higher quality of politics will bring a new quality of life to the people. If we stop bureaucrats from stealing and the incumbents from abusing their own people, if we stop corruption and wasteful spending, we will live in a very different Ukraine in just a year.

I believe we can do it, and would like you to believe it, too. Ukraine and its people deserve a worthy and happy life. My wish for the next year is that at the end of it, most of the common people can proclaim: Yes, this year was good.

So, have a Happy New Year.
Vitali Klitschko is the leader of Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform, a new political force in parliament with 42 seats. He is also a world heavyweight boxing champion.



Investor sentiment in 2012

Expectations vs Reality

Investor confidence in Q4 2012 hit another rock bottom and decreased by 0.02 points down from 2.14 (out of 5 possible) revealed in Q3 2012. Not surprisingly, say the experts. Cloudy outlook of the fall parliamentary elections coupled with the vulnerability of Ukraine's economy prevent business climate's recovery, despite political will and clear ambitions of the Government to boost the figures.

Nothing out of the common state of Ukrainian market in the eyes of investors is caused by the fiscal pressure they face, concerns over currency stability and weak judiciary power. Such were the results of the 18th wave of EBA's Investment Attractiveness Index survey, which comprised expert assessments and innermost opinions given by 118 top-managers of EBA member-companies.

The curve below displays the fluctuations of EBA Investment Index starting from 2008 up to current times. Investor sentiment dynamics clearly points to the fair to middling state of business climate during the whole 2012.

EBA Investment Attractiveness Index

Key findings

Overall investment climate attractiveness is measured on a scale of one to five and consists of five components:

1. Current investment climate assessment (1.7 points)
2. Investment climate dynamics: last 3 months (2.1 points)
3. Investment climate expectations: next 3 months (2.3 points)
4. Profitability for new entrants: next 3 months (2.2 points)
5. Investment climate of primary industry: next 3 months (2.3)

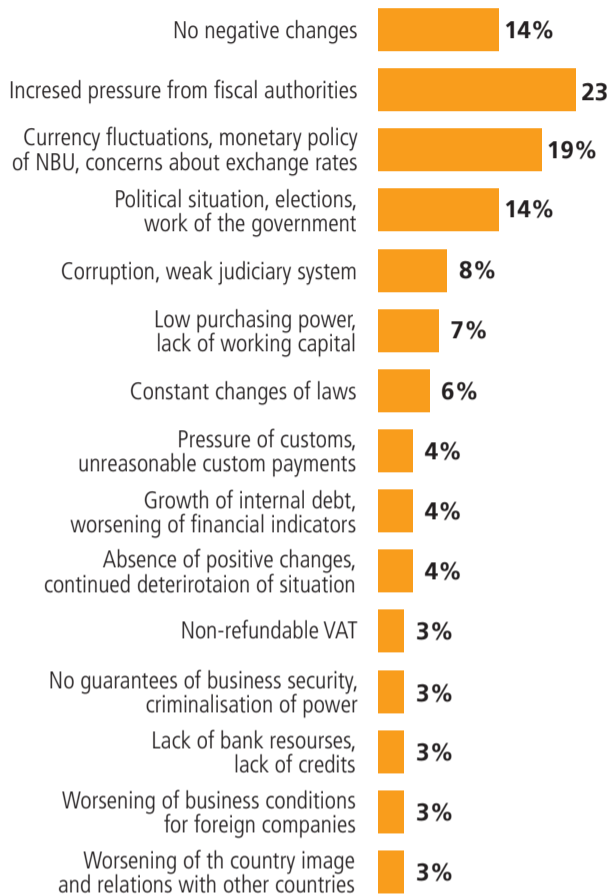
If comparing the figures revealed by Index respondents during the whole 2012 year, the gap between the indices is narrow.

Investor discontent and discomfort is caused by several so much talked about reasons — increased fiscal pressure (23%), fears over monetary and financial stability and currency rate (19%), pre- and post-elections turbulence (14%), overwhelming and destructive corruption (8%), overall legislative and regulatory instability and unpredictability (6%).

If one compares the stats with the feedback received in previous quarters of 2012, fiscal pressure as the main depressing component has come to the forefront once again (as in Q2 & Q3 2012 the value of this factor and its deterioration impact on investor moods slightly decreased).

Parliamentary elections contrived to make matters worse, as the majority of those surveyed stated lack of transparency and political influence on the distribution of budget funds in pre-elections and elections course.

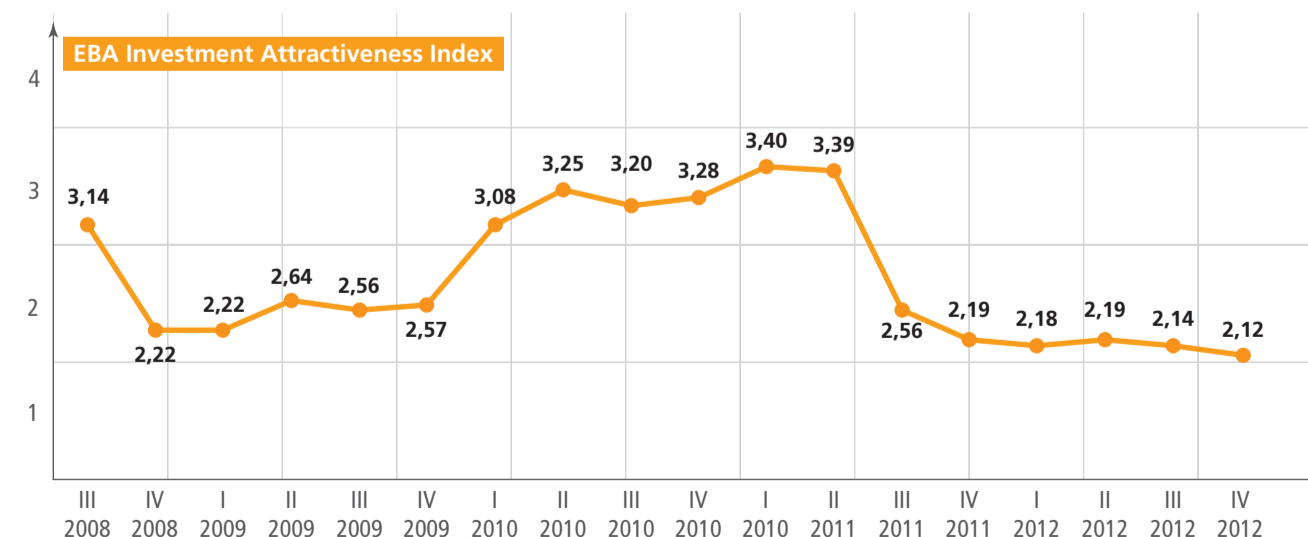
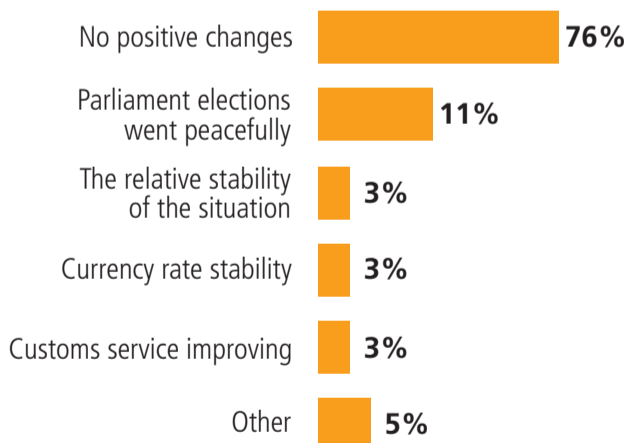
The graph shows the whirlpool of negative changes perceived by business community in Q4 2012:



When being asked about positive changes that took place during the last three months, 76% noticed the absence of such changes in the investment climate. 11% of investors indicated relatively peaceful elections as a positive change.

"Parliamentary elections went peacefully", "reduced number of inspections due to the elections", "elections finished, focus should come back to real life soon", "no more elections in near future" - with these words the respondents described positive changes in Q4 2012.

Positive changes in investment climate in Q4 2012



ANNA Derevyanko

EBA Executive Director



'Small wonder that the year-end shows us the absence of drastic positive or negative trends in investor perceptions. On a positive note it should be mentioned that despite all problems the outlook of Ukraine's investment climate seems not so gloomy in the eyes of businesses. As for now we see some positive changes in the steps taken by the Government. Commenting on the results and developments brought by our common efforts, I'd like to state that this year we at the EBA had more than 200 initiatives, and a third of them was successfully implemented, again owing to the business community's consolidated actions and the intention of the Government to solve to the problems.

Among the most prominent achievements are the following: Cancellation of conformity declarations, introducing amendments to the Tax Code, which settled the issue of tax losses carry-forward, installing changes to the Land Code, which now grants foreign investors a right to acquire non-agricultural land plots, successful enactment of the new Customs Code which boosted the quality of customs operations and much more.

For now we still have some unsolved burning issues on the agenda, namely concerning important pharmaceutical industry issues; i.e. import licensing, technical regulations and CE declarations recognition in Ukraine. So-much-talked-about language law came out of the blue and immediately caused a negative impact on already imperfect labelling procedures. We still have to fix the issue with CE labelling, amend some regulatory acts to unleash Ukraine's transit potential and tackle the problem, which can arise on January 1, 2013 if technical regulations are enacted, as they still lack transition period, clear terms and conditions.

I am sure we have enough strength to move Ukraine's reforms in a right direction and improve our investment climate. For now, all we need to do is to continue going shoulder to shoulder with the Government.'

ERIK Versavel

Chairman of the Management Board of ING Commercial Banking Ukraine, EBA Board member



'These results indicate sentiment and perception in respect of foreign investment. Sentiment and perception can change very quickly and sometimes small steps are enough to turn the tide. Looking back 6 months, we can say there was at that time an opportunity for change. Now, with an external rating downgrade and for all practical purposes a political stalemate, we would argue there is a necessity for change, and small steps are enough. Many companies both foreign and local are still doing very well in Ukraine, but sometimes it is hard to continue to see the good news.'

TARAS Lukachuk

Vice-President & Area Director, Kraft Foods Ukraina



'While doing business in Ukraine continues to be challenging but rewarding experience, recent changes in external environment, including flat or declining consumer markets, from our point of view require immediate actions from the state directed to improve operational business environment. If such steps will not be implemented in the nearest future, we may face high risk to end up in "low growth/high risk" corner of the investment decision formula. This may lead to further decrease in foreign investment, that will be redirected in favor to "higher growth or lower risk" countries.'

Editorials

Achievements

Despite a year of democratic and economic setbacks, the Kyiv Post has decided to reflect on the nation's greatest victories of 2012. Ukraine will need many more of them in 2013.

Economically, Ukraine avoided the sharp downturns that bedeviled many European and other nations. The hryvnia held its own as Ukraine's leaders patched together finances without fresh International Monetary Fund credit, which was suspended in 2011. And Ukraine is establishing itself as a global agricultural powerhouse.

Politically, the nation's voters showed that democracy is still alive. They decisively brought two new, energetic political forces into parliament: Vitali Klitschko's Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms and Oleh Tiahnybok's Svoboda Party.

Although the Oct. 28 parliamentary elections were unfair, they were not rigged either, with 40 percent of the seats going to the political opposition. However, had the elections met democratic standards of honesty and transparency, the political opposition would most likely be in the majority. Still, the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich wisely let the people's will prevail in what appeared to be a reasonably honest vote count on the party list system, from which half the 450-seat legislature is elected.

Also, there are welcome signs of political pluralism among the oligarchs who had seemed to do everything in lockstep. Victor Pinchuk, Petro Poroshenko and Valery Khoroshkovsky all staked out varying positions of independence.

The free world also put Ukraine on notice that it has not forgotten human rights abuses, including the imprisonment of ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. It's a plus not to be forgotten.

The icing on the cake, of course, was Ukraine's spectacular staging of the 16 Euro 2012 football championship games. Despite overspending, the nation achieved lasting benefits and showed it knows how to pull off a big event and please tourists. Everything that came from the games – more English-language signs, better roads and new airports and stadiums – was positive.

Forced by increasingly high prices for Russian natural gas imports, Ukraine finally started taking baby steps towards energy independence by reaching agreements with Shell, Chevron and Exxon for exploration of new oil and gas deposits.

Even though European integration is painfully slow, the nation and the European Union initialed an Association Agreement that, if signed and adopted, would lead to a free trade agreement and easier travel abroad for Ukraine.

There were individual glories as well – at the summer Olympics, at the Paralympics, in chess and at the Junior Eurovision contest. Also a group of innovative Ukrainian students won Microsoft's Imagine Cup for inventing gloves that translate sign language into speech.

Government showed that it could change, simplifying the tax procedures so as to move up in the World Bank's Doing Business ranking. Moreover, Ukraine finally adopted a new criminal code that, while not going far enough to ensure justice, is a step in the right direction.

There are more achievements in all spheres. Not enough, to be sure, but still 2012 had its bright spots.

Smoke-free air

The change in public attitudes and policy on smoking is another refreshing development in 2012. We remember the times, not so long ago, when evil tobacco peddlers ran roughshod over the nation.

They spent lavishly. They overproduced billions of cigarettes from Ukrainian factories, flooding Europe with cheap and illicitly smuggled smokes. They beat back tax hikes and smoking restrictions with the help of their friends in high places. They plastered billboards and kiosks in unrelenting and shameless advertising/marketing campaigns to make a deadly addiction seem glamorous. Their products sent 100,000 Ukrainians to early graves every year.

But the forces of good are winning out. There are many people to thank – including smokers themselves who, polls show, want to quit smoking and support restrictions that might help them do so. But there are many public health champions, in and out of government, to thank as well.

Ukraine adopted the international Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in 2006, laying the groundwork for the public health measures that took effect this year. Ukrainian cigarettes, once among the cheapest in the world, have been getting gradually more expensive as the nation's lawmakers wised up to the need for tax increases. Tobacco advertising is banned almost everywhere. Cigarette packs now feature large and prominent text and graphic warnings.

And perhaps the most visible and welcome change took place on Dec. 16, when the legal ban on indoor smoking in public places finally took effect. Such a ban will improve the health of millions of Ukrainians who are no longer forced to inhale secondhand smoke, for which there is no safe level of exposure.



NEWS ITEM: The newly elected Ukrainian parliament started off with Dec. 17-18 fights that broke out among MPs during sessions. Many were curious about whether world heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko, who heads the 42-seat Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms faction, would participate in the fights. Nicknamed Dr. Ironfist, Klitschko said he did not fight because he is afraid of seriously injuring somebody as his punches are "nuclear weapons" that the Verkhovna Rada does not need.

Back Story: My wish for the New Year is an end to paid-for stories



MICHAEL WILLARD
WILLARD@KYIVPOST.COM

In Ukraine, fighting against paid stories masquerading as news is a little like slugging it out with the Pillsbury Doughboy: You never inflict any real damage on the opponent and, at the end of the day, the puffy fellow keeps that silly smile on his face.

It has been called Willard's folly—though certainly others have waged mightily against this practice (including the Kyiv Post)—but I have held fast to this issue for the better part of two decades as a magazine publisher and newspaper, ad and PR executive.

The tally thus far? Well, by way of comparison, just picture the Klitschko boys tag-teaming a chess champion named Tiny Tim. The lopsided score would merit an entry in that famous Guinness book.

But, for some strange reason, each year I pick myself up off the canvas and go to the opposing corner. With this being the last issue of the Kyiv Post before the New Year, it is time to answer the old bell again. That Don Quixote fellow has nothing on me.

→ Corporations damage their own reputations when they subvert real journalism in this despicable way

For starters (I open with a roundhouse to the Doughboy's chin), paid press represents corporate irresponsibility. A company can have an arsenal of social responsibility projects, but if it fails on this point, it's a CSR basket case.

If your company is buying press and pretending that it's news, it is undermining a free press. It is corrupting the entire information process by, in essence, lying to the public. Such companies are, in fact, attempting to fool the public into thinking the stories are legitimate. They are not. They represent advertising – self-promotion.

The fact is there would not be a market for paid press if large local and multinational companies did not serve → 16

KyivPost
INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST

Published by Public Media LLC

J. Michael Willard, Chief Executive Officer
Brian Bonner, Chief Editor

Editors: Katya Gorchinskaya, Jakub Parusinski, Mark Rachkevych
Staff Writers: Oksana Faryna, Anastasia Forina, Oksana Grytsenko,
Vlad Lavrov, Yura Onyshkiv, Denis Rafalsky,
Olga Rudenko, Daryna Shevchenko, Svitlana Tuchynska
Photo Editor: Ganna Beryk. Photographer: Kostyantyn Chernichkin
Chief Designer: Vladyslav Zakharenko

Sales Director: Yevgeniya Baranska
Sales Managers: Elena Grysiuk,
Alyona Nevmerzhytska,
Anastasiya Sergienko,
Elena Symonenko, Nataliya Zavaloka
Internet Sales Manager: Iryna Cheban
Office Manager: Elena Pashkovskaya

Special Projects Coordinator:
Kateryna Kalendruz
Transport Manager: Mykola Andrusha
Designer: Yuriy Ternickiy
Chief Accountant: Galyna Rogachova
Accountant: Tatyana Shargorodskaya
IT Manager: Andriy Polyakov

To inquire about distribution of the Kyiv Post, please contact Andrey Beley
at beley@kyivpost.com or by phone at 591-3409

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

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

Referendums can bring changes nation wants

OLGA SHUMYLO-TAPIOLA

Ukraine is believed to be one step from joining the Eurasian Customs Union. According to prominent members of Ukrainian civil society, the European Union is the only thing that can help stop this eastward slide.

All Brussels has to do, it is said, is sign the Association Agreement that would tie Ukraine to the European Union and all discussion about Kyiv's orientation would come to a halt. When a group of Ukrainian experts sent a letter to EU leaders urging them to sign the agreement, that is what they implicitly meant. The Association Agreement has become a tool in a geopolitical fight between Brussels and Moscow, and Brussels will be assigned the role of the guilty party if Ukraine joins the Customs Union.

Kyiv has received invitations to all Moscow-led integration initiatives, including this one, but has managed to stay at arm's length from most of them. And its suggestion of a 3+1 framework for cooperation that would have entailed free trade between the Customs Union and Ukraine was rejected by Moscow. This time, some Ukrainian experts suggest, the situation is different.

There are many reasons to worry that Ukraine may indeed be moving eastward. The Ukrainian economy is not doing well, and it may need the money that would come from external players—and with the International Monetary Fund freezing a stand-by loan for Ukraine, Russia is the only provider in town. Ukraine's oligarchs need cheaper gas, and Russia promised a discount in return for Kyiv's membership in the Customs Union. And Yanukovich and his aides seem to be testing the waters by talking about closer ties with Moscow. Last week, the Communist Party of Ukraine suggested holding a referendum on joining the Customs Union.

The necessary legal framework for this is in place after a new referendum law was signed in November. A referendum must be held if at least 3 million signatures are gathered in support of holding one. With the help of this law, the administration could easily falsify the signatures and potentially the voting results as well.

The EU can do little to help in this situation. It is not and should not be in the business of regime change or course reorientation. Brussels steps in with support when there is a need to build something. The Association Agreement is important because its implementation may help Ukraine finally break free of its Soviet past. But that transformation can happen only if there is focus on Ukraine and not on geopolitics.

In this spirit, only the Ukrainians themselves can help their own country. Long gone is the Ukraine in which local elites relied on external forces to protect them from their neighbors. In 2004, in independent Ukraine, the people's massive protests during the Orange Revolution stopped former president Leonid Kuchma from pushing through Yanukovich, who was then prime minister, as president in falsified elections and discouraged the Kremlin from interfering in Kyiv's domestic affairs in 2004. They should not try to put their responsibilities onto the EU's shoulders now.

So what can Ukrainian citizens do to stop their country from joining the Customs Union?

Ukrainians must begin by viewing their situation less emotionally.

Yanukovich definitely intends to use the referendum law to bypass parliament on internal and foreign policy decisions. Yet, the law's existence is not a sign of impending Customs Union membership. Yanukovich is likelier to use the law to grab more power and ensure his (or his protégé's) reelection in 2015 rather than lose political and economic power by using the law to bring Ukraine into the Customs Union.

The oligarchs may push for cheaper gas rather than modernizing their factories and reducing their dependency on Russia. Yet, while they may get better access to Russian markets after many trade barriers between Ukraine and the Customs Union members are eliminated, they will lose in all other markets.



An activist wearing a mask of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich invites passersby to go through a symbolic gate with the words "Customs Union" and "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here," from the epic poem by Dante Alighieri. The protest-performance took place in front of the presidential office in Kyiv on Dec. 17 by a group that favors a free trade agreement with the European Union over joining a Customs Union of three former Soviet republics — Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. (AFP)



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (R) welcomes his visiting Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich as they meet in Putin's Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow on Oct. 22 (president.gov.ua)

Kyiv will have to adopt the Customs Union's common external tariff, which is twice and sometimes three times higher than that of Ukraine. They will also not be immune from trade wars that still exist within the Customs Union. This will outweigh all possible benefits from cheaper gas.

An agreement on joining the Customs Union and the adoption of all other relevant documents needs to be ratified by parliament. The members of Yanukovich's Party of Regions are unlikely to ecstatically vote for such a deal, let alone the opposition, which has more seats in parliament and is well equipped for the fight.

Even if the parliament would ratify Ukraine's membership in the Customs Union, there would be two further barriers ahead. The first is the Ukrainian constitution, which prohibits surrendering sovereignty to a supranational body. But of course, the president may use the referendum law to change the constitution.

If he does so, Ukraine may be prevented from integrating into the Customs Union with the help of the WTO. Membership in the Customs Union will require the revision of Ukraine's WTO commitments on customs tariffs. Kyiv's recent attempt to raise the tariff ceiling for 371 goods was strongly opposed by all WTO members. Raising all tariffs may lead to long fights and demands from WTO members for compensation for their reduced access to the Ukrainian market.

Despite all of these barriers, the president may still wish to take Ukraine on a journey to the Customs Union. To prevent that, Ukrainians must take action.

They should focus on Ukraine and make European integration a domestic issue, not a foreign policy tool.

Ukrainians can hit the administration with its own weapon: the referendum law. They should collect 3 million signatures to launch a referendum on whether Ukraine should meet the EU's conditions and sign the Association Agreement. With over 50 percent of the population supporting European integration, gathering the necessary signatures should not be a problem. And it is doubtful the administration would try to rig this one.

To avoid future abuses, Ukrainians should use the referendum law to fix the deficiencies of the law itself. They should initiate a referendum on adding public oversight to the law and reducing the possibility of result manipulation. But Ukrainians must go further. They have to put issues that really trouble them—from corruption, to excessive presidential authority, to the tax code—up for referendum as well.

Ukrainians will also have to start a massive information campaign. The media proved to be the best fighter for freedoms this year by pushing the administration to abandon the libel law that would have imprisoned or heavily fined journalists found guilty of defamation. This potential should be used to highlight the benefits of closer integration with the EU. A picture of a farmer in Belarus contrasted with one in the EU, or a table with financial benefits from trade with the EU versus losses that Kazakhstan experienced after it raised tariffs because of Customs Union membership, will beat every nostalgic thought an ordinary Ukrainian might have about uniting with Russia.

The opposition in parliament must do its best to block any document that would reverse Ukraine's European course, be that the ratification of the Customs Union membership or any other law that would deviate from the EU or Council of Europe's norms.

Last but not least, Ukrainians can use the EU to fight their own administration. They can build alliances with Brussels based on mutual interests by, for instance, condemning the increase of customs tariffs by the Ukrainian administration—both today's suggested increases and larger changes if Kyiv joins the Customs Union—that will be bad for both the Ukrainian economy and the EU. By defending their country's interests and showing some empathy by addressing the EU's concerns, Ukrainians can get much further than they imagine.

Olga Shumylo-Tapiola is a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe in Brussels, where her research focuses on the European Union and Russian policy toward Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus. This opinion was originally published on the Carnegie Europe website here <http://carnegieeurope.eu/publications/?fa=50388> and is reprinted with permission.

VOX populi

WITH OLENA GONCHAROVA



What do you think of the new ban on indoor smoking in public places?



Lydmyla Lugovskaya,
Prego cafe commercial director
"Our restaurant obeys the law, so now we don't have

smoking areas and we're totally happy with it. Some people, I think, will save their money and won't waste it on cigarettes. As far as I know, about 80 percent of Kyivans put thumbs up for this law. And more visitors have come with their children. Of course, people who used to smoke want special places for smoking. But our clients came to us more for dinner than to smoke."



Evheniy Vyshnevskiy,
waiter
"I don't understand why they have done it. It's nonsense! Before this law, every

person had a chance to choose smoking or non-smoking areas in the bar. It's a problem because I'm a smoker. But our (T.G.I. Friday's restaurant) clients are ok with this."



Dmytro Tymchenko,
government employee
"I think it's a great improvement. Maybe more people will quit

smoking. In the restaurant where I used to have a lunch, I saw that all the ash trays disappeared from the tables. So now I also don't have the problem that my jacket smells bad. By the way, I'm also trying to give up smoking, so every time I want to have a cigarette I'll think twice whether to go outdoors or not."



Daryna Kalashnikova,
recruiter
"For those families with children, it was a big problem to find a non-smoking

place. So it turns out to be a good step. People in public places will no longer suffer from passive smoking. I'm a smoker (but it's not a problem for me to go and smoke on the street."



Vlad Tkachenko,
student
"I don't care because I will keep smoking wherever I want."

→ On the move

PAID ANNOUNCEMENT



OLGA ANDRIENKO-BENTZ recently joined the Advisory practice of PwC Ukraine as a Director. Before joining PwC, she had worked for nine years for Roland Berger Strategy Consultants in Ukraine, Russia and Germany, advising corporate and public sector clients. She has successfully managed more than 30 consulting projects in the CEE region. She has supported major international and leading Ukrainian companies in consumer goods and retail sector, and also chemicals, utilities, transportation and public sector. Her areas of functional competence include

developing corporate and functional strategy and business plans, marketing, sales, logistics, organizational structure, corporate management and human resources management, enhancing efficiency and cost cutting as well as performing due diligence studies.

Olga was born in St-Petersburg, Russia. She has got her degrees in Business Administration from St.Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance (Russia) as well as Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration (Finland). Prior to joining strategy consulting she has worked in FMCG sector in Germany and the UK.



THOMPSON MCDANIEL recently joined the Advisory practice of PwC Ukraine as a Director.

Thompson has worked in PwC's CEE practice for over two years focusing on large scale restructuring projects across key industry sectors including industrial and consumer products, retail, steel, automotive, and machinery production. During the past two years Thompson was a Director in PwC Slovakia's consulting unit where he established the Operational Excellence line of service for the Czech and

Slovakia practice, delivering complex projects in the areas of Lean Six Sigma transformation, strategic sourcing and procurement, warehousing and logistics optimization, and Operational Due Diligence.

Before joining PwC, Thompson spent over 12 years in management consulting, working in a number of countries in the region including the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Russia, Romania and Bulgaria serving a diverse client base in the areas of strategy and operations. Prior to that, he was a financial and restructuring advisor for USAID and a visiting faculty member at the CEU Business School in Budapest.



OLENA ZUBCHENKO was promoted to an Associate Partner at Lavrynovych & Partners Law Firm. In her new role she will be responsible for legal work in the sphere of banking and finance law, construction, real estate and agribusiness.

Olena joined Lavrynovych & Partners as a Senior Associate in 2010 from a leading Ukrainian law firm, where she worked as a head of department. Olena has over 8 years of professional experience in banking and finance, specializing primarily in IPOs of Ukraine's leading agricultural enterprises, bond issues,

pre-acquisition due diligence of enterprises, structuring of transactions and foreign investments.

Olena Zubchenko graduated from the Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, is a master of law and continues her research activity. She is a certified attorney-at-law in Ukraine.

Have a new employee or promoted someone recently? Let Kyiv Post readers know about all the changes in your business, government agency or non-profit organization through a paid announcement in the On The Move section. For information about how to place your On The Move item at the low rate of Hr 1,440, please call advertising at 591-77-88 or email advertising@kyivpost.com.

High interest rates will keep consumer lending in doldrums



GREG KRASNOV

Yoga-nidra is a "sleep-like state of mind between wakefulness and sleep that opens deep phases of the mind."

Experienced by yogis during meditation, yoga-nidra leads to the achievement of transcendental consciousness by a dedicated practitioner. It is also an apt description of the state of the Ukrainian banking system today.

Beat up and tired, Ukrainian banks have attained a new level of sensory withdrawal. A crisis stops being a crisis when it hits every two or three months, for four years in a row, with all the randomness of a Deutsche Bahn train. So, having despaired in their ability to predict from which direction the next meteorite will strike, banks have wandered off to that happy place between wakefulness and slumber.

The single-digit growth rates achieved so far in 2012 (9 percent deposits, 3 percent loans year-to-date as of November) mask a marginal contraction of banks' balance sheets in real terms. The incipient consumer finance "gold rush" that started last year was brought to an abrupt halt in the second quarter, when a number of inexperienced new entrants saw their credit risk results and rushed for the exit in dismay, with a few more expected to follow soon. Obsessive inward focus on cost-cutting now borders on navel-gazing. "The outside world is an illusion. True happiness can only be found inside. Ommm..."

Given the disappointing growth rates, Western banks have now realized that it will take them until the next ice age to make a return on their Ukrainian subsidiaries. Commerzbank notably

exited Forum Bank in 2012, and many more exits can be expected in 2013. As usual, one man's loss is another one's gain. Local business groups seem all too happy to snap up the Ukrainian subsidiaries of foreign banks at deeply discounted prices.

Now, what will it take for the banking system to break out of this meditative state back into a more normal busy-bee-beta-wave vibration? Will it be anything in the environment? Domestic or international? Or does there indeed exist a magical caffeine-laden regulatory pill that could jolt the banks out of bed and straight onto a rapid growth path? And most importantly, can any of these triggers be happening in the near future that we may be able to visualize them without reaching for military-grade binoculars?

Well, first things first. Banks deal in money. The price of money is an interest rate. And hryvnia deposit interest rates have now firmly passed the orbital acceleration phase and have happily departed for Pluto. Normal borrowing-lending relationships can't function at deposit rates that would be considered private equity-like returns in the rest of the world. In the eternal game between greed and fear, fear has won. Today's rates reflect the going price for taking on the risks of the "Ukrainian roulette" of the hryvnia exchange rate. And they will only come down when Ivan Ivanovich, the common citizen, stops engaging in the glorious national pastime of foreign exchange speculation.

Does it take binoculars to see Ivan Ivanovich doing this? No, but it does take a consistent communication of intention of action on behalf of the regulator. Consistency builds credibility, and credibility breeds stability. Recent events demonstrate that, even in the context of Ukraine's low-trust political environment, communication of intention by the regulator can be at least as powerful as the action itself. So, the more of this type

of communication we see next year, the faster will Ivan Ivanovich reach his well-deserved state of utter microeconomic bliss and be able to accept a non-usury priced deposit interest rate. And the faster this will then allow the banks to consider flooding the economy with reasonably priced loans.

Then, assuming that devaluation fears go away, and the population runs back to the banks offering them money at ridiculously cheap rates, will banks increase lending? Do low interest rates in fact equal growth in lending to the real economy?

Unfortunately, the answer is not so clear.

Bank lending is being held back by the combination of negative gross domestic product growth, increasing regulatory pressure on business, weak legal protection of shareholder and creditor rights, the absence of long-term resources in the economy, weak consumer sentiment ... and a very pre-occupied Ivan Ivanovich, whose salary payment has just been delayed. Again. This puts him in no mood to take out a bank loan to renovate his Khrushchovka flat or splash out on a vacation on the Turkish riviera. The unfortunate bit is that the constraints don't have a quick fix, and seem unlikely to be resolved in the next nine months.

So, where does that leave the banks next year? With very few exceptions, probably in the continued state of yoga-nidra, with more and cheaper money, but limited ideas of what can be profitably done with it. With more navel-gazing and cost focus. With more exits by Westerners and acquisitions by locals. And most regrettably, with no growth for most.

"Omm..."

"Ommmm..."

Greg Krasnov is the CEO of Platinum Bank, co-owned by international investment funds Horizon Capital, East Capital, FPP Asset Management and International Finance Corporation.



**THINKING RELOCATION?
THINK INTERDEAN.**

"We make it easy"

Relocation | Immigration | Moving | Real Estate

Contact Interdean:
T: +38 (044) 576 7370
E: kiev@interdean.com






www.interdean.com

MOVE ONE

ANYTHING ANYWHERE
**RELOCATION, MOVING
AND LOGISTICS SINCE 1992**







+380 44 369 30 77
ukraine@moveoneinc.com
moveoneinc.com

**The best way
TO REACH
the largest group
of English-speaking
Ukrainians**

Advertise in the
KyivPost

For further information,
call +380(44) 591-7788



NEED TO MOVE?

**INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL
REMOVALS**

Shipping and Storage
Tel: + 380 44 502 39 23
manager-kiiev@agsmovers.com

www.agsmovers.com

Executive Moves & Office Relocation Service
We Forward The World

KIMET
UKRAINE'S FAVORITE MOVER

- Door-to-door moving worldwide
- Office & residential relocation
- Customs clearance service & storage
- Boryspil a/p City express delivers

For a free estimate call us now at
236-61-77 483-24-20
483-24-61

e-mail: kimet@merlin.net.ua
YOUR COST-SAVING ALTERNATIVE

License series AB No 544771 given by the Ministry of Transport of Ukraine on 20.07.10

**Got a news tip?
Question?
Complaint?
Suggestion?**



Call the **KyivPost** editorial hotline at 591-3344
or e-mail: news@kyivpost.com

Economic growth will require work



ILDAR
GAZIZULLIN

Domestic policy rather than global demand for steel will determine the Ukraine's economic outlook in 2013. Moody's bond rating service formulated the country's risks very well: "Deterioration in the country's institutional strength against the backdrop of poor policy predictability."

If the government does not regain the confidence of financial markets, then the economic forecast will be downgraded. A positive outlook is based on the shaky assumption that global demand for Ukraine's export commodities will increase in 2013. In fact, demand will be modest given difficulties still faced by major economies in the world.

Many firms will still work way below their capacity, having not recovered fully from the 2009 financial meltdown. Moreover, Ukraine's manufacturing is gradually losing its competitiveness after so many years of weak investment activity.

Agribusiness, with its growing yields and ever rising demand, is perhaps the only bright spot among Ukraine's export sectors.

Most importantly, the economic outlook for 2013 assumes changes in the domestic economic policy – namely, that Ukraine would resume cooperation with the International Monetary Fund. Aside from helping Kyiv repay about \$5 billion in IMF loans from previous years, it implies that the government enacts austerity measures, including increasing gas prices for households and introducing a more flexible exchange rate – hence, hryvnia devaluation.

The problem with this assumption is that the government continues to cling to its pre-election habit of avoiding tough decisions. This greatly disappoints financial markets and undermines trust in Ukraine. Moreover, key institutions are failing their mandate. There are strong reasons to doubt the independence of the National Bank of Ukraine and the energy regula-

tory authority, both of whom appear to pursue business interests and have a political bias.

The government has not offered a realistic alternative to the need to cut budget expenditures and increase revenues. Cooperating with Russia does not seem to be a suitable replacement for an IMF loan. A possible multibillion-dollar loan from a Russian bank and a significant discount in gas prices would, of course, help ease the balance of payments deficit.

For financial markets it may not be particularly important who bails Ukraine out in 2013 – Russia or the IMF. However, creditors would still expect Kyiv to enact austerity measures, as it is the only way for the country to reduce the risk of failing to meet its commitments in the future.

Balancing the state budget will not be an easy task. Budget revenues are flat as businesses pay much less taxes with economic growth close to zero, while the profit tax rate would go down to 19 percent because of changes introduced by the new tax code. The tax administration's efforts to bring incomes out of shadow in 2012 were not very successful and there are no reasons to expect a better result next year.

Privatization of state property would only partially help to close the gap. The government intends to sell a number of unprofitable state-owned companies, which are heavily subsidized, particularly in the coal industry. Yet, investors would need time (and access to capital markets) to make profits. Quite a few enterprises would continue to require government assistance. The financial situation is troubling in the transport and energy infrastructure. Those companies are highly indebted because of Euro 2012 investments and regulations to subsidize consumers.

Finally, while a final deal with Shell and Chevron is expected soon, these two giants are not likely to immediately invest billions of dollars. Russian acquisition of rights to control the Ukrainian gas transportation system would also require time and would deprive Ukraine of transit cash flows in the not so distant future.

On top of it all, the government has little room for maneuver in cutting social expenditures. Pensions and wages in the public sector are pro-



NEWS ITEM: According to reports, at least seven Hyundai trains went out of service in December, leaving frustrated passengers stuck inside the trains for hours with the heating off. In most cases, like on Dec. 16, the Donetsk-Kyiv Hyundai train stopped in the middle of nowhere for an hour. Then the train was dragged to the nearest station, where passengers spent three more hours until they were put on another train to Kyiv. The train arrived six hours behind schedule. Similar situations took place on other routes, including Kyiv-Kharkiv and Kyiv-Lviv. Ukraine's government bought Hyundai trains from South Korea with big fanfare earlier in 2012, paying \$300 million for 10 trains. Then Deputy Prime Minister Borys Kolesnikov said they are better than Ukraine-made trains from the Kriukov Car Building Works that are \$5 million cheaper each. Neither Ukrzaliznytsya nor Hyundai commented on the issue. Ukrainian Premier Mykola Azarov said Ukraine "will never buy Hyundai trains again" and will opt for domestic ones instead.

ected expenses. Ukraine wastes a large share of its budget through the corrupt public procurement system or through its inefficient social safety net, which is poorly targeted and, hence, socially unjust.

The financial markets would not care whether the required changes are made in an autocratic or democratic manner. Yet, it seems the government

has no other option but to start a social dialogue to win public support. While reform failures over 2010–2012 are blamed on vested interests or low administrative capacity, lack of public support was another important impediment.

Ukraine can avoid an economic crash in 2013. But there are no easy policy decisions left. The steps

required to mend the economy have been identified and, if communicated properly, there is a chance that the authorities will get public support domestically and confidence from the outside.

Ildar Gazizullin is a senior analyst at Kyiv's International Centre for Policy Studies. He can be reached at igazizullin@icps.kiev.ua.

Eugenia Tymoshenko: Yanukovich trying to create dictatorship

→2 Yulia Tymoshenko does not have access to the telephone.

"It may be hard for her to be completely informed or to actively take part in political activity because it was the whole intention of the authorities, of President (Viktor) Yanukovich, to try to isolate her."

Yanukovich has maintained that Yulia's prosecution was part of law enforcement's larger anti-corruption campaign and that he has no influence over the judicial system.

Eugenia says the past 500 days "have been the most difficult time of our lives as a family."

"We faced similar prosecutions and attacks 10 years ago, but... still we can say that that time there was more

democracy and rights for people than now," she says, referring to her mother's brief imprisonment in 2001 for a month. She was accused of contraband and fraud then, but her detention was also viewed as political because she was one of the most vocal critics of the then President Leonid Kuchma, who was losing popularity fast.

But the similarities do not end there. Eugenia's sentiment about how to fight political repression, are also similar to the atmosphere of the early 2000s.

"We understand that there is no force inside of Ukraine which can stop these repressions and punish the people who organize them, apart from the Ukrainian people themselves," she says. "I feel like I live in a country that

has become a prison."

Eugenia says her mother's closest circle of friends and defenders are feeling "the second wave of repressions." Serhiy Vlasenko, her top lawyer, was recently banned from traveling abroad. The authorities, however, say that this is due to his ex-wife's claims of his failure to pay for child support. Their fight on this issue has been extremely public and nasty.

Hryhoriy Nemyria, Tymoshenko's former deputy prime minister, has been accused by prosecutors for failing to show up for questioning in an investigation into his party's financing, a charge he denies.

"First of all, they want to remove the leader of the party, of the opposition



Ukraine's former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko (C) is flanked by her daughter Eugenia and husband Oleksandr Tymoshenko during last year's trial that led to her conviction for abuse of office and seven-year prison sentence. (AFP)

from the political life, now they want to remove the party. It's not going to happen," Eugenia says. "This is just proof that this government is set to build a dictator state in Ukraine. And if they are not stopped, Ukraine will become a dictatorship very soon."

And this goes way beyond politics. "Like many Ukrainians, I wish to have my life back that we had three

years ago, when we were not afraid to start up a business, when we were not afraid to invest in Ukraine, when we were not afraid to go out and voice what we think, without being afraid of being prosecuted or arrested."

Kyiv Post editor Katya Gorchinskaya can be reached at gorchinskaya@kyivpost.com.

TOP COMPANIES

To advertise, email: advertising@kyivpost.com, or call 591-7788

Biggest firms in Ukraine excel in last five years

BY OKSANA FARYNA
AND DENIS RAFALSKY
FARYNA@KYIVPOST.COM, RAFALSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

What has happened to Ukrainian companies over the last five years? How did they survive the global economic crisis? What is their place among the region's other behemoths?

To answer these questions, the Kyiv Post decided to compare the rankings of the 500 most money-making companies in Central and Eastern Europe. One was completed in 2008 and the other in 2012, based on the previous years' revenues. Deloitte, one of the largest auditing companies, did the survey.

The findings show that while most Ukrainian companies were hurt more than others by the global financial crisis, some oligarch-owned businesses managed to increase their revenues greatly during this period. Other Ukrainian companies which did not make the rankings five years ago unexpectedly moved high up the recent list.

And the status of many Ukrainian companies, state-owned or private, changed considerably in the intervening years.

"When we completed this ranking for the first time in 2008 we surprised a lot our colleagues in other countries with such strong positions held by Ukrainian businesses," said Volodymyr Vakht, managing partner of Deloitte in Ukraine.

Vakht added that 75 companies out of 500 listed in the older ranking were Ukrainian, with total share in revenues of more than 13 percent. But even though many companies dropped out by the 2012 survey – leaving 50 – those companies still accounted for nearly 12 percent of the group's revenue.

"Ukrainian companies felt the impact of the crisis much more than European ones," Vakht said. However, "after the crisis, the growth rate of the largest Ukrainian companies significantly exceeded the growth rate in other countries," Vakht said.

Thus, despite multiple changes brought by the financial crisis, state-owned Naftogaz, which specializes in extraction and supply of oil and gas, managed to increase its revenues almost four times since 2007. This happened not only because oil and gas prices went up in recent years, but also because two intermediaries, RosUkrEnerg and UkrGaz-Energ, were eliminated from the scheme of importing Russian gas to Ukrainian industrial consumers. As a result, Naftogaz became Ukraine's second biggest company with 9.7 billion euros in revenue at the end of 2011.

Metinvest became Ukraine's top company in the latest list. The vertically integrated steel and mining company is mostly owned by Ukraine's richest billionaire, Rinat Akhmetov.

Metinvest, along with energy company DTEK, also owned by →10

Ukrainian firms that made Deloitte's top 500 companies, 2012 vs. 2008

Editor's Note: Deloitte, an international auditing and consulting firm, produced and compiled two rankings of Top 500 companies in Central and Eastern Europe, with 50 Ukrainian companies making the grade in its most recent survey released this year. The rankings are based on revenues for 2007 and 2011. The top three Ukrainian ones in the latest rankings are Metinvest, the steel and coal industry holding controlled by billionaire Rinat Akhmetov; Naftogaz, the state oil and gas giant; and Energorynok, a state-owned electricity wholesaler. The information in the "description-owner" columns was gathered by the Kyiv Post.

#	Company short name		Description/owner	Industry	Revenues from sales, million euro		Revenues from sales change (2007-2011%)
	2012	2008			2011	2007	
4	30	Metinvest	Ukraine's largest steel and mining group mostly controlled by Ukraine's richest man, Rinat Akhmetov	Process Industries	10,152.6	2,871.84	253.52
5	41	Naftogaz of Ukraine	State oil and gas company	Oil and Gas	9,703.6	2,436.20	298.31
9	11	Energorynok	State company serving as a wholesale supplier of electric power, manager of the energy market where electric power is traded	Power and Utilities	6,553.9	4,370.16	49.97
21	–	Ukrzaliznytsia	State-owned railway company	Transportation	4,632.6	–	–
32	117	DTEK	Ukraine's largest private electricity producer, distributor; also involved in hydrocarbons exploration. Owned by Rinat Akhmetov	Mining and Power	3,555.7	1,264.61	181.17
52	76	ISD (Industrial Union of Donbass)	One of Ukraine's single largest steel-producing conglomerates; owns steel mills in Ukraine, Hungary and Poland. Controlled by businessmen Serhiy Taruta, Oleh Mkrtschan and Russian investors	Process Industries	2,691.5	1,690.56	59.21
53	–	Energy Company of Ukraine	Manages state assets of energy generating and distributing companies of Ukraine	Power and Utilities	2,682.0	–	–
54	34	ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih	Ukraine's single largest metallurgical factory in terms of annual production, a subsidiary of ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steel producing company	Process Industries	2,593.6	2,652.24	-2.21
72	68	Ukratnafta	Ukraine's largest oil refinery reportedly controlled by Ukrainian Privat Group, a banking and industrial conglomerate	Oil and Gas	2,112.6	1,913.93	10.38
80	102	Donetskstal	One of Ukraine's largest steel and mining group reportedly owned by businessman Viktor Nusenkis along with partners	Process Industries	2,017.5	1,358.55	48.50
85	–	Fozzy Group	Operates and owns one of the largest supermarket and grocery chains in Ukraine	Retail	1,897.0	–	–
117	–	Ostchem	Group of Ukrainian mineral fertilizer producers controlled by businessman Dmytro Firtash	Process Industries	1,572.0	–	–
122	75	TNK-BP Commerce	A leading producer, refiner and supplier of petroleum products in Russia and Ukraine was sold to Russian state-owned company Rosneft in 2012	Oil and Gas	1,490.4	1,797.63	-17.09
123	–	OWG Group	Reportedly connected with businessman and lawmaker Ihor Yeremeyev	Oil and Gas	1,470.6	–	–
125	133	Energoatom	Ukrainian national nuclear operator	Power and Utilities	1,455.9	1,170.74	24.36

AVELLUM PARTNERS

• Internationally Ukrainian •

...first class legal services in a first class way...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Sale of a stake in Biopharma to Horizon Capital and FMO

Legal Advisor to Seller



Credit portfolio restructuring
USD887 mln

Legal Advisor to Interpipe

THIS COULD BE YOUR DEAL



Sale of Ocean Plaza, the largest shopping mall in Ukraine

Legal Advisor to Seller



Secured loan facility from a syndicate of European banks
USD210 mln

Legal Advisor to Kernel Group

Law Firm of the Year in Ukraine: Chambers Europe Awards for Excellence 2012

www.avellum.com

#	Company short name		Description/owner	Industry	Revenues from sales, million euro		Revenues from sales change
	2012	2008			2011	2007	(2007-2011%)
131	-	Kernel	One of Ukraine's largest producers of sun flower seeds, sunoil and related products, majority owned by lawmaker Andriy Verevsky	Consumer Product Companies	1,358.9	-	-
134	472	ATB Market	Owns and operates, reportedly, the largest supermarket and grocery chains in Ukraine, owned by Dnipropetrovsk business group	Retail	1,354.3	426	217.91
155	-	Ferrexpo Group	Group of companies including leading Ukrainian ore miner owned by businessman and lawmaker Kostyantyn Zhevago	Process Industries	1,216.3	-	-
158	153	Interpipe	A leading manufacturer of steel pipes controlled by businessman Victor Pinchuk	Industrial Products and Services	1,194.7	1,062.36	12.45
164	87	Kyivstar GSM	One of Ukraine's top mobile phone service providers in terms of subscribers, owned by VimpelCom Ltd.	Telecommunications	1,174.5	1,555.04	-24.47
173	401	Philip Morris Ukraine	Major domestic producer and retailer of cigarettes, subsidiary of international tobacco giant Philip Morris	Consumer Product Companies	1,123.2	486.8	130.73
176	431	Galnaftogaz	A supplier and retailer of gasoline with filling stations scattered across the country, controlled by businessman Vitaly Antonov	Oil and Gas	1,105.5	458.76	140.97
180	433	Epicentr K	A leading chain of Ukrainian home improvement and construction material department store, controlled by the family of Halyna Herega, secretary of Kyiv city council	Retail	1,097.5	458.2	139.52
192	-	Nibulon	One of the largest Ukraine's agricultural holdings controlled by businessman Oleksiy Vadatursky	Consumer Product Companies	1,045.4	-	-
218	-	Southern GOK	Iron ore producer controlled by Russia's Evraz group and Ukraine's Smart-holding of businessman Vadim Novinsky	Mining	966.9	-	-
220	230	Azovmash Group	One of Ukraine's largest machinery and car producers, controlled by the Savchuk family and businessman Yuriy Ivaniushchenko	Industrial Products and Services	961.7	752.39	27.81
226	450	Atlant-M	A leading automobile retailer in Ukraine	Automotive	939.6	440.24	113.44
232	-	Gazprom sbut Ukraina	Subsidiary of Russian natural gas giant Gazprom	Oil and Gas	908.5	-	-
236	498	Roshen	Ukraine's largest confectionery producer controlled by businessman and lawmaker Petro Poroshenko	Consumer Product Companies	892.9	405.02	120.46
240	451	MHP	Leading Ukrainian poultry producer controlled by businessman Yuriy Kosiuk	Consumer Product Companies	879.4	439.81	99.96
266	141	MTS Ukraine	One of Ukraine's top mobile phone service providers in terms of subscribers, subsidiary of Russia's MTS mobile phone group	Telecommunications	817.6	1,135.92	-28.02
329	191	Coal of Ukraine	State-run company	Mining	676.8	889.18	-23.89
334	-	BaDM	Ukraine's distributor of pharmaceutical products based in Dnipropetrovsk	Wholesale and Distribution	670.8	-	-
354	-	BNK-Ukraine	Belarus exported oil products distributor in Ukraine	Oil and Gas	646.4	-	-
355	-	Foxtrot	One of Ukraine's leading retailers of electronics and home appliances	Retail	646.3	-	-
363	-	P&G Trading Ukraine	A leading domestic supplier of consumer goods, subsidiary of international consumer products company Procter & Gamble	Wholesale and Distribution	637.2	-	-
389	178	Ukrtelecom	Ukraine's monopoly provider of fixed line telephone service and operator of the nation's telecommunications backbone	Telecommunications	607.7	960.07	-36.70
394	284	Nikopol Ferroalloys Plant	Ukraine's major producer of ferroalloys jointly controlled by businessmen Igor Kolomoisky along with partners, as well as businessman Viktor Pinchuk	Process Industries	601.1	645.09	-6.83
410	410	Cargill A.T.Ukraine	A major player on Ukraine's agriculture market, exporter of grain and sun flower oil, subsidiary of US-based agriculture giant Cargill	Consumer Product Companies	576.2	480.35	19.95
419	-	Optima Pharm	Ukraine's distributor of pharmaceutical products based in Kyiv	Wholesale and Distribution	564.5	-	-
432	-	Kriukov car building works	Major producer of railway wagons, reportedly controlled by director Volodymyr Prykhodko	Industrial Products and Services	554.8	-	-
434	-	VS Energy	Manages assets of Ukrainian electricity producing and distributing companies, hotels across Ukraine, controlled by group of Russian businessmen	Power and Utilities	552.8	-	-
435	-	Lemtrans	Private railway transportation company recently bought by Rinat Akhmetov	Transportation	550.5	-	-
444	-	Khlib Investbud	Grain trader with an unclear ownership structure	Wholesale and Distribution	537.0	-	-
458	-	Motor Sich	A leading producer of aircraft and helicopter engines on post-Soviet turf, majority owned by domestic businessmen	Aerospace and Defense	520.2	-	-
464	-	Furshet	One of Ukraine's leading supermarket chains, controlled by domestic businessmen	Retail	514.7	-	-
469	358	Dniprospsstal	Controlled by Group Privat and VS Energy	Process Industries	509.8	527.47	-3.35
481	-	AeroSvit	Ukraine's main air carrier reportedly controlled by businessman Igor Kolomoisky along with partners, as well as Viktor Pinchuk and State Property Fund	Transportation	501.4	-	-
488	-	OPZ	Ukrainian state chemical giant in Odesa	Process Industries	492.1	-	-
493	-	Donetsk-electrometal	Steel mill in Donetsk controlled by Russia's group Mechel, was recently put up for sale	Process Industries	484.4	-	-

- data for company is not available

Source: Deloitte surveys on Top 500 companies of the Central and Eastern Europe in 2008 and 2012. A 2008 survey was done in partnership with business daily Delo. The information in the "description-owner" columns was gathered by the Kyiv Post.

Advertisement

BUSINESSADVISER

MITIGATING RISKS

When Buying Businesses in Ukraine

In spite of visible growth of the global mergers & acquisitions market in 2011 and 2012, the area has not recovered yet to the level of pre-crisis times. The current state of the Ukrainian M&A market remains slow-moving as well. Apart from global macroeconomic factors significantly influencing the situation on the national M&A market, it is additionally complicated by peculiarities of the legal system in Ukraine. Usually, foreign investors have limited knowledge of these matters and may face certain problems when purchasing a Ukrainian business. Vadym Samoilenko, a partner with Asters, has agreed to highlight some important aspects of foreign investors' navigating through deep waters of local M&A market.



Vadym Samoilenko
Partner with Asters

What is the most effective Ukrainian law mechanism to mitigate the risk of sellers' or buyers' refusal from entering into a deal after a long period of negotiations?

Usually, the parties' willingness to enter into and complete a deal is formalized through execution of a Letter of Intent or a Memorandum of Understanding, which are very popular and widely used in international transactions. However, under Ukrainian law, neither a Letter of Intent nor a Memorandum of Understanding shall be binding upon its parties, unless they specifically stipulate that such a document has the legal effect of a Preliminary Agreement. According to Ukrainian law, a Preliminary Agreement has a binding effect and may establish responsibility for breaching its provisions. Therefore, in order to mitigate the pre-transactional risk of a party's breaking away, it is recommended to conclude a Ukrainian law governed Preliminary Agreement obliging the seller and the purchaser to enter into the main sales and purchase agreement within the stipulated period, which, however, may not exceed one calendar year.

What "surprises" may foreign investors expect from Ukrainian sellers?

Most Ukrainian sellers prefer selling their company "as it is", i.e., without curing any existing defects or solving legal problems the company may face in the future. The common advice a foreign investor would hear from a legal counsel is to conduct a full-blown legal and financial due diligence, which will be the buyer's principal source of information about the target. However, given the fact that most of the information and documents about the target company is furnished by the seller or the target's management, a proper buy-side due diligence does not necessarily mean that the buyer is in possession of complete and correct knowledge about the target. To mitigate this risk, the buyer usually uses the representations and warranties mechanism, which, when coupled with a buy-side due diligence, enables him to learn as much as possible about the target and grants proper protection against a bad-faith seller.

Representations and warranties are frequently seen in Ukrainian law SPAs these days. In many instances they are just mechanically 'borrowed by analogy' from English law contracts the parties had experience with in previous transactions. However, it should be noted that the concept of representations and warranties is not fully compatible with Ukrainian contract law. That raises issues with their enforcement in practice.

Often, representations and warranties may be viewed from Ukrainian law perspective as a contracting party's unilateral statements of fact rather than its contractual obligations. Whereas according to the domestic law, a party to an agreement can be held liable for a breach of its contractual obligation only. A breach of the contractual obligation triggers civil law liability, which may be enforced through a Ukrainian court. Incompleteness and/or inaccuracy of a unilateral factual statement given would not normally create a valid legal ground for a lawsuit under a Ukrainian law contract.

Therefore, obviously, many representations and warranties may not qualify as obligations and could not be enforceable against the breaching seller under Ukrainian law. Thus, it is advisable for the buyer to insist on converting the seller's representation and warranties in respective contractual obligations rather than to simply 'copy-paste' them from an English law contract to Ukrainian law one.

Is foreign law used in Ukrainian M&A deals?

Yes, mostly, for medium and large-size M&A deals, which involve a foreign element.

Foreign laws, especially English and Cyprus ones, are frequently used in Ukraine in the course of M&A deals structuring and performance. This is mainly due to certain inflexibility of the local legislation. Complete absence of respective legal framework or limited possibility to use in Ukraine such important legal instruments as representations and warranties, shareholders agreements, escrow schemes, etc., is sometimes a strong argument to opt for a foreign law.

As to small-sized transactions, the parties usually prefer to deal under Ukrainian law. However, they still tend to deviate from a traditional court dispute resolution practice (mostly, due to a low level of trust in Ukrainian state courts) and to direct any potential dispute, which may arise from the transaction, for the consideration of either international or local institutional arbitrators.

It is worth mentioning that the parties to M&A deal cannot choose a foreign governing law if the deal does not involve any foreign party to it.

Are shareholders agreements available under Ukrainian law?

Shareholders agreement is an instrument, which came to Ukrainian legal practice from the common law system. It is not fully functional in the domestic legal framework. Intended to cover issues, which are not properly governed by law or are governed contrary to the objectives of the parties, the shareholders agreement, according to established Ukrainian court practice, will most probably be recognized invalid if found incompatible with applicable Ukrainian law, especially if it is governed by a foreign law. Therefore, to fully enjoy the advantages of the shareholders agreement, the parties should seek its conclusion at the level of a foreign holding company with respect to the Ukrainian target, with subordination to a non-Ukrainian law.

Asters

19-21 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.
Kyiv 01030, Ukraine
Leonardo Business Center, 14th Fl.
Tel.: + 380 44 230 6000
Fax.: + 380 44 230 6001
www.asterslaw.com

Ukrainian newcomers join Deloitte's ranking

→ **8** Akhmetov, managed to increase their revenues around three times over the five years. This happened mainly due to mergers and acquisitions of several enterprises, including those acquired from the state. Revenues of both companies amounted to more than 10 billion euros (\$13 billion) and 3.6 billion euros, respectively, in 2011.

Because of privatizations, however, the number of state-owned companies mentioned in the list halved.

Apart from energy companies and heavy industry, Ukraine's retailers, food and agribusiness companies also did well in the past five years.

The largest chain of supermarkets, ATB Market, owned by Dnipropetrovsk businessmen who reportedly had links to imprisoned ex-prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, also grew more than three times during the period and finished 2011 with almost 1.4 billion euros in revenues from sales.

Another retailer, Epicenter, a leading chain of home improvement and construction material suppliers, is controlled by Kyiv City Council secretary Halyna Hereha. Epicenter had revenue of more than a billion euros in 2011, more than twice as much as in 2007.

During the last five years, when Ukrainian multimillionaire Petro Poroshenko was head of the National Bank and served as the nation's foreign minister, his confectionary corporation Roshen also more than doubled its revenues to 0.9 billion euros. Close to Roshen, in terms of revenue growth and a place in the ranking, comes Mironivsky Hliboproduct, Ukraine's leading poultry producer, listed on the London Stock Exchange and majority-owned by local businessman Yuriy Kosiuk.

"Those businesses which have their representatives in the executive power or in the parliament feel more confident than those companies that don't have such direct connections. With some minor exceptions this is generally true," explained Ildar Gazizullin, senior analyst at the International Center for Policy Studies think tank.

Over the last five years, some new names popped up in the ranking in 2012.

Among them is Ostchem, a Cyprus-registered company controlled by bil-



The production process at Metinvest, Ukraine's largest steel and mining group mostly controlled by Ukraine's richest man, Rinat Akhmetov (Courtesy)

lionaire Dmytro Firtash's Group DF. After purchasing most of the country's mineral fertilizer producers, including Cherkassy Azot, Horlivka Concern Stirol, Severodonetsk Azot and Rivne Azot in recent years, the company ended up in the first half of the ranking in 2011 with 1.6 billion euros in revenues. Firtash is believed to be close to President Viktor Yanukovich.

Among the newcomers is Ferrexpo Group, which controls the lucrative iron-ore business, with interests in finance, car production and pharmaceuticals. The owner, lawmaker Kostyantyn Zhevago, was known for his support of Tymoshenko. Some think that was the reason why the tycoon faced a criminal probe in 2011. Zhevago didn't lose his business touch, however, distancing himself from the opposition as his company increased its revenue to 1.2 billion euros in the latest ranking and remained in the first half of the top companies list.

Retail chain Fozzy Group also flexed its muscles in Ukraine. Absent from the 2008 ranking, Fozzy Group jumped to 85th place in 2012 ranking with revenue of 1.6 billion euros. Controlled by Volodymyr Kostelman, Fozzy Group owns and operates one of the largest supermarket and grocery chains in Ukraine (Silpo, Fora, Bumi and Fozzy).

Ukrainian giant agribusinesses, Kernel and Nibulon, also weren't present in the 2008 ranking. According

to 2011 figures, Kernel with member of parliament Andriy Verevsky as the main beneficiary and Nibulon controlled by Oleksiy Vadatursky earned 1.4 billion euros and more than one billion euros, respectively.

This year Khliv Investbud, a controversial grain trader with an unclear ownership structure, for the first time made it into the Top 500 ranking after earning a half-billion euros in 2011.

Moreover, it is agribusiness companies that are expected to move higher in the top list next year.

The last five years were less successful for telecommunications companies such as Kyivstar GSM, MTC Ukraine and Ukrtelecom whose revenues decreased by more than 20 percent.

While an analysis of revenues does not give the whole picture of how companies performed, the data are enough to see that in general Ukrainian enterprises grew faster than businesses in other countries in the region. Thus, in 2011, Ukrainian companies listed in the Deloitte ranking increased their revenues on average by 24 percent while the growth rate of all 500 companies mentioned amounted to less than 10 percent. While the rest of the country chugged along, the giants reigned.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Faryna can be reached at faryna@kyivpost.com and Denis Rafalsky can be reached at rafalsky@kyivpost.com.

Public procurement champions of 2012

Companies linked to the 10 most successful bidders for public procurement contracts won 59 percent of the \$6.6 billion in government awards this year.

Name	Amount, USD	Main area of goods/services provision
 Oleksandr Yanukovych	\$1.235 billion	Energy, fuel, chemicals, technological equipment, metals, processing
 Rinat Akhmetov	\$880 million	Construction, energy, fuel, chemicals, transport, goods, services, technological equipment
 Oleksandr Tyslenko	\$367 million	Construction
 Dmytro Firtash	\$316 million	Energy, fuel, chemicals
 Yuriy Ivaniushchenko	\$286 million	Construction, technological equipment
 Oleksandr Yefremov	\$250 million	Technological equipment,
 Yuriy Boiko	\$221 million	Construction
 Viktor Vekselberg	\$136 million	Energy, fuel, chemicals
 Serhiy Katsuba	\$135 million	Light industry, technological equipment, metals, processing,
 Volodymyr Petrenko	\$91 million	Construction

Source: Forbes Ukraine, forbes.ua/ratings/people
Compiled by Mark Rachkevych and Vlad Lavrov

President calls practice corrupt even as son is biggest recipient

BY VLAD LAVROV
LAVROV@KYIVPOST.COM

that hope to win a government tender fairly.

When it comes to what is wrong with Ukraine's business climate, high on the list is the way that public procurement is conducted. Even President Viktor Yanukovich has admitted that billions of dollars disappear yearly due to corruption in the awarding of government contracts and other spending.

It is not uncommon for billions of dollars of taxpayer money to go to companies whose beneficiary owners are hidden behind layers of offshore jurisdictions. The ownership often trail ends in Belize, arguably the most notoriously non-transparent offshore haven.

According to Forbes's online database of public procurement champions, the company Premier Leasing this year won the most bids to garner \$5.1 billion (\$637.5 million) worth of public procurement deals. Nashi Groshi, an online watchdog, shows that the company this year supplied gondola train cars to state railway monopoly Ukrzaliznytsia. The founder of Premier Leasing, with statutory capital of \$1,000 (\$125), is a resident of a village in Luhansk Oblast.

In its latest report on global corruption, Washington-based Global Integrity said the public procurement process in Ukraine is weak.

According to the report, which rates disclosure requirements and conflicts of interest in 31 countries, Ukraine is effectively closed to foreign companies

The report points out the absence of public notices containing tender rules, failure to publish tender requirements, covert preferences in the awarding of contracts and ineffective grievance and dispute resolution mechanisms. In addition, the report points out that there are no cases of a company being found guilty of major violations.

Although information about most tenders, except those involving state enterprises, is on a specialized website, in reality the site is nearly useless due to its cumbersome layout and lack of search engine. This prompted forbes.ua website jointly with Washington-based Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a Kyiv Post partner, to launch a database in which official information is presented in an easily comprehensible manner.

The database found at forbes.ua/ratings/people provides a list of companies and businesspeople who are the main beneficiaries of public procurement deals. The winner is Oleksandr Yanukovich, the president's older son who, according to the database won \$1.2 billion in public procurement contracts this year. Oleksandr Yanukovich told the Kyiv Post that there "are serious doubts about the truthfulness of the data, and about the tender winners published by Forbes.ua. He also questioned the validity of the methodology used by Forbes.

Kyiv Post staff writer Vlad Lavrov can be reached at lavrov@kyivpost.com.



CHRISTODOULOS G. VASSILIADES & CO. LLC

Advocates - Legal Consultants

ESTABLISHED IN 1984

Christodoulos G. Vassiliades established his law practice, Christodoulos G. Vassiliades & Co. LLC in 1984 in Nicosia, Cyprus. Swiftly developing a reputation of excellence and diligence in all legal and business matters, the Firm is internationally acknowledged as one of the leading law firms on the island.

The Firm advises corporate and private clients in the fields of corporate law, commercial law, trusts, intellectual property, migration, and mergers and acquisitions, as well as providing a full range of corporate administration and trust services through its associated management and trust companies. Services offered include:

- Litigation
- Formation of Companies in Cyprus and in other jurisdictions
- Corporate Management and domiciliation services | Organisational Structures
- International Tax Planning | Formation and use of Trusts and Foundations
- Migration matters including temporary residence and employment permit, residence permit by acquisition of immovable property, long-term residence permit and the granting of Cyprus citizenship.
- Accounting

LEDRA HOUSE
15 Agiou Pavlou Street,
Agios Andreas, 1105, Nicosia, Cyprus

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. BOX: 24444, 1703
Nicosia, Cyprus

Tel: +357 22556677
Fax: +357 22556688
e-mail: cg@vasslaw.net

www.vasslaw.com



LANGUAGES

Greek, English, Russian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Polish, French, Italian, Spanish, Hungarian, Lithuanian, German.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Founder and Managing Director of the Firm is Christodoulos G. Vassiliades. Mr. Vassiliades, an Advocate, is also the Honorary Consul of Belize in Cyprus.

MEMBERSHIPS

Cyprus Bar Association
Nicosia Bar Association
International Bar Association
International Tax Planning Association
The Offshore Institute
International Fiscal Association
Interlaw | Laworld | Lexwork International
Mackrell International
INTA | LEGUS | CEDR

European and Ukrainian cuisine
Karaoke



20 Parkova doroha, Kyiv
+380 44 270-71-71
+380 67 505-59-58
www.leo.ua

CYBERZONE
powered by **SAMSUNG**

INTERNET CAFE

Kyiv, Bessarabska square, Metrograd mall
Lower Basement
tel.: (+38044) 247-56-47

AMERICAN MEDICAL CENTERS

Kyiv's Premier International Health Clinic
+38 (044) 490 7600
1 Berdychivska Str., 04116 Kyiv, Ukraine
www.amcenters.com

КОСМО **АПТЕКА**

KOSMO - national chain of health & beauty shops

CALL CENTRE:
Tel: 0 800 308 808 www.kosmo.ua
(landline calls within Ukraine are free of charge)

License series AB No. 579414 issued by the State Service for Medications of Ukraine on 01.11.2011



Going Out Guide

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

Comments and tips are welcome. Email the lifestyle team at ls@kyivpost.com

For tickets online, please visit kvytky.ua, parter.ua, freedomhall.com.ua, biletouse.com.ua, karabas.com, or biletik.ua.

Ice flowers

A unique exhibition called Flowers of the Snow Queen will be held on Spivochko Pole between Jan. 2 and 27.

Dozens of showpieces that will go on display will be made of natural flowers covered with a layer of water to give them the appearance of an ice sculpture. The exhibition is organized by Kyivzelenbud, the municipal enterprise in charge of parks. "I consider this exhibition the most beautiful and successful project of Kyivzelenbud," Mykhailo Tsarenko, Kyivzelenbud general director, has said.

The Flowers Of The Snow Queen. Jan. 2-27. Spivochko Pole. Admission fee to be announced



Friday, December 21

Classical music

Christmas Evening Baroque Style. Works of Buxtehude, Bruns, Bach, Alcock, Pachelbel (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100

Paganini Tribute. Works of Paganini, Kreisler (violin). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Christmas Concert. Offertorium Chamber Orchestra and Sofia Chamber Choir Playing Bach. Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 50

Piano Faculty of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine Concert. National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music. 7 p.m. Free

Movies

Wuthering Heights (melodrama). Zhovten. 3:20 p.m., 9:20 p.m. Hr 25-35

Lawless (action). Kyiv. 10:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m. Hr 20-65

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (fantasy). Kyiv. 10:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 5 p.m., 8:15 p.m. Hr 50-80

Tilva Rosh (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 5 p.m. Hr 30

The Woman With the Broken Nose (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 7:15 p.m. Hr 30

Live music

Rock DJ. Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Mad Heads XL & Mama Mia (Italian disco, Russian rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 100

Diversanti (pop rock). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Blooming Plum (brit pop). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Clubs

End Of The World With Top Djs. Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 25-60

Funny Apocalypse Night. Egoist. 11 p.m. Hr 25 for females, Hr 50 for males

The End Of The World. Disco Radio Hall. 10 p.m. Hr 60 for females, Hr 80 for males

Theaters

Do Not Disturb! (comedy, based on Ray Cooney's play "#13"). Palats Ukraina, small stage. 7 p.m. Hr 60-85

The Tempest (premiere, based on William Shakespeare's play). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200

Opiskin, Foma (premiere). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120

Eyes Of A Blue Dog (love story). Molody Theater, small stage. 7 p.m. Hr 80

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Hr 110-350

ColourDreams(AnnaMyhailychenko photo exhibition). Dreams Museum (55 Chigorina St.). 12:01 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Hr 30

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. – 8 p.m. Free

Saturday, December 22

Classical music

Works of Caccini, Bach, Buxtehude, Schubert, Kolessa, Vedel, Davydovsky (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 50-200

Works of Smith, Williams, Cesarini, Barroso, Ferran. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-90

Movies

Lawless (action). Kyiv. 10:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m. Hr 20-65

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (fantasy). Kyiv. 10:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 5 p.m., 8:15 p.m. Hr 50-80

Practical Guide to Belgrade, With Singing and Crying (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 3 p.m. Hr 30

Tilva Rosh (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 5 p.m. Hr 30

The Woman With The Broken Nose (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 40

Live music

Ot Vinta & Crazy Train. Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Motor'rola Chumaky & Red Rocks. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

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

The Pitons. Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Clubs

No End Of The World. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 25-60

DJ Hot Since 82. Mantra. 11 p.m. Hr 100 for females, Hr 200 for males

Playgirls. Bionica. 11 p.m. Hr 30-50 for females, Hr 60-80 for males

Theaters

Zorba The Greek (premiere). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200

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

Shows

Viktor Tsoi is 50. Symphonic Cinema. Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 120-1,200

Luntik (New Year performance). House of Officers. 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Hr 180-300

Magic World of Mary Poppins (New Year performance). Premier Palace (5-7/29 Tarasa Shevchenko Blvd.). 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Hobby Day (festival). Bolshevik Shopping Mall (6 Hetmana St.). 10 a.m. Hr 250

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Hr 110-350

ColourDreams(AnnaMyhailychenko photo exhibition). Dreams Museum (55 Chigorina St.). 12:01 p.m. - 6 p.m. Hr 30

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. – 8 p.m. Free

Sunday, December 23

Classical music

National Presidential Orchestra Playing Verdi, Rossini, Strauss, Glinka, Kalman. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Movies

Wuthering Heights (melodrama). Zhovten. 3:20 p.m., 9:20 p.m. Hr 25-35

Lawless (action). Kyiv. 10:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m. Hr 20-65

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (fantasy). Kyiv. 10:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 5 p.m., 8:15 p.m. Hr 50-80

The Woman With The Broken Nose (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 3 p.m. Hr 30

Practical Guide to Belgrade, With Singing and Crying (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 5 p.m. Hr 30

Menagerie (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 40

Live music

Rock Four. Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

Tex-Mex Company. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free

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

Eva Pavlova (cabaret singer). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Clubs

Snegurochka Fairy Tale Hen Party. Bionica. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 20-40

R'n'B Boom. Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 15-30

Back To USSR. Ajour. 9 p.m. Free for females, Hr 100 for males

Theaters

The School Of Scandals (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120

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

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

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Hr 110-350

ColourDreams(AnnaMyhailychenko photo exhibition). Dreams Museum (55 Chigorina St.). 12:01 p.m. - 6 p.m. Hr 30

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. – 8 p.m. Free

Monday, December 24

Movies

Wuthering Heights (melodrama). Zhovten. 3:20 p.m., 9:20 p.m. Hr 25-35

Lawless (action). Kyiv. 10:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m. Hr 20-65

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (fantasy). Kyiv. 10:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 5 p.m., 8:15 p.m. Hr 50-80

Menagerie (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 5 p.m. Hr 30

The White Lions (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 40

Live music

Whistlin' Dixie (country rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

Chill Out (disco rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free

Theaters

One Hundred And Fifth Page About Love (drama). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120

Shows

Ded Moroz in Dikanka, Christmas Performance. The National Circus of Ukraine. 4 p.m. Hr 50-150

Miscellaneous

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. – 8 p.m. Free

ColourDreams(AnnaMyhailychenko photo exhibition). Dreams Museum (55 Chigorina St.). 12:01 p.m. - 6 p.m. Hr 30

Tuesday, December 25

Classical music

Ave Verum. Works of Mozart, Schnittke (violin, violoncello). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Movies

Wuthering Heights (melodrama). Zhovten. 3:20 p.m., 9:20 p.m. Hr 25-35

Lawless (action). Kyiv. 10:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m. Hr 20-65

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (fantasy). Kyiv. 10:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 5 p.m., 8:15 p.m. Hr 50-80

Practical Guide to Belgrade, With Singing and Crying (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 5 p.m. Hr 30

Tilva Rosh (Serbian Movie Festival). Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 40

Theaters

Dreams Of Vasilisa Yegorovna (performance by Les' Poderev'yans'ky). Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 150-400

Parable Of The Prodigal Father (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80

Torchalov (scenes). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

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

Live music

Partizanskiye Vytivky & Crazy Train (Russian rock, rock covers). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 50

Tres Deseos & Rock Four (latina, rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 20

Khoroshiy Plokhoy Zloi (rockabilly covers). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

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

Miscellaneous

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. – 8 p.m. Free

ColourDreams(AnnaMyhailychenko photo exhibition). Dreams Museum (55 Chigorina St.). 12:01 p.m. - 6 p.m. Hr 30

Shows

Ded Moroz in Dikanka. Christmas performance. The National Circus of Ukraine. 4 p.m. Hr 50-150

Bruno Pelletier. Concert Of Worlds Christmas Songs. Palats Sportu. 7 p.m. Hr 250-1,500

Wednesday, December 26

Classical music

Subscription No.3. National Academic Orchestra of Folk Instruments Playing Liudkevych, Hutsalo, Popadiuk, Marton. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Movies

Wuthering Heights (melodrama). Zhovten. 3:20 p.m., 9:20 p.m. Hr 25-35

Lawless (action). Kyiv. 10:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m. Hr 20-65

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (fantasy). Kyiv. 10:30

a.m., 1:45 p.m., 5 p.m., 8:15 p.m. Hr 50-80

Live music

The Magma & Red Rocks (pop rock, rock covers). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 50

Rockin' Wolves (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Tsygan-Balagan (balkan music). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

Night Surf. Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Theaters

Pavlik Morozov (performance by Les' Poderev'yans'ky). Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 150-400

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

Lying Naked Truth (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120

Shows

Ded Moroz in Dikanka. Christmas performance. The National Circus of Ukraine. 4 p.m. Hr 50-150

Ukraine's Main Christmas Tree. Palats Ukraina. 1 p.m., 4 p.m. Hr 40-200

Miscellaneous

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. – 8 p.m. Free

ColourDreams(AnnaMyhailychenko photo exhibition). Dreams Museum (55 Chigorina St.). 12:01 p.m. - 6 p.m. Hr 30

Thursday, December 27

Classical music

National Symphonic Orchestra of Ukraine Playing Mozart, Bruckner. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-90

Movies

White Christmas (musical). Master Klass. 7 p.m. Hr 40

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (fantasy). Ukraine. 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-60

Live music

Mama Mia & Beefeaters. Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 50

Karnavalnaya Zhara & Whistlin' Dixie (country rock, rock covers). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Tartila (cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

We Are! Divan. 9:30 p.m. Free

Theaters

Love Without Rules (comedy).



French shorts

A dozen of French short movies will be screened in Kyiv's Kinopanorama cinema on Dec.21 to mark the shortest day in the year. The visitors can expect to watch anything from silent movies to modern animations. The program includes R (2011 animation), Barres (1983 fiction), Ben Hora (2010 animation), Dance Macabre (1940 fiction), Foutaises (1989 fiction), Hai Puka (2010 animation), Groove your life (2011 fiction), Le baiser (2007 fiction), Les petits souliers (1999 fiction), Partir (2012 animation), Rubika (2010 animation) and Babiloes (2010 animation).

All will be shown in the original language with Ukrainian subtitles. **Le Jour Le Plus Court. French shorts. Dec. 21. Kinopanorama. Hr 20**

Dec.22-23



New Year show at Experimentanium

Kyiv's newly opened popular science and technology museum will host its own New Year show.

New Year Show. Dec. 22-23. Experimentanium (2A Verkhny Val St.). Hr 145-165

Artist's House. 7 p.m. Hr 60-130

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

Dangerous Liaisons (drama). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80

The Dove (tragic comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

Shows

Ukraine's Main Christmas Tree. Palats Ukraina. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. Hr 40-200

The Legends Of Narnia (3D show). House of Officers. 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. Hr 130-390

The Legend Of Mulan (Cirque Phenix). Palats Sportu 5 p.m. Hr 80-500

Miscellaneous

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

ColourDreams (Anna Myhailychenko photo exhibition). Dreams Museum (55 Chigorina St.). 12:01 p.m. - 6 p.m. Hr 30

Friday, December 28

Classical music

Piano Music Evening. Works of Mozart, Liszt, Tchaikovsky, Chopin (piano). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Movies

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (fantasy). Ukraine. 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-60

Live music

Motor'rola & Whistlin Dixie. Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Red Rocks & Rock Four (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Vexlarsky Orchestra. Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Clubs

Olivje (New Year pre-party). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 60

Theaters

Cross Paths (tragic farce). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-150

The Follies of Love (farce). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200

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

Shows

Ukraine's Main Christmas Tree. Palats Ukraina. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. Hr 40-200

The Legends Of Narnia (3D show). House of Officers. 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. Hr 130-390

The Legend Of Mulan (Cirque Phenix). Palats Sportu. 1:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m. Hr 80-500

Miscellaneous

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

ColourDreams (Anna Myhailychenko photo exhibition). Dreams Museum (55 Chigorina St.). 12:01 p.m. - 6 p.m. Hr 30

Saturday, December 29

Classical music

Kyiv Chamber Orchestra Playing Haydn, Mozart, Stankovych. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 20-100

Prayer. Works of Caccini, Buxtehude, Bach, Vedel, Schubert, Luzzi, Hristov, Kolessa, Davydovsky, Lunov (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 50-200

Live music

Green Grey & Tex-Mex Company. Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 100

Motor'rola & Bangladesh

Orchestra. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

MJ Project. Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Goodwin. Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Theaters

Taming Of The Shrew (comedy). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-150

Corsicanian (historical anecdote). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80

Miscellaneous

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Magic World of Mary Poppins (New Year performance). Premier Palace (5-7/29 Tarasa Shevchenko Blvd.). 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m. Hr 100-300

ColourDreams (Anna Myhailychenko photo exhibition). Dreams Museum (55 Chigorina St.). 12:01 p.m. - 6 p.m. Hr 30

The New Year's Adventures. Kyivska Rus Park. Hr 40-80

Shows

Ukraine's Main Christmas Tree. Palats Ukraina. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. Hr 40-200

The Legends Of Narnia (3D show). House of Officers. 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. Hr 130-390

The Legend Of Mulan (Cirque Phenix). Palats Sportu 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5:15 p.m. Hr 80-500

Sunday, December 30

Classical music

Chamber Music Concert. Works of Bach, Mozart, Scarlatti (piano, violin, violoncello). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-90

Live music

Rock DJ. Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 50



New Year adventures in Kyivska Rus Park

Exciting winter adventures await the visitors of Kyivska Rus Park, a medieval outdoor park in Kyiv region which will host an interactive theatrical New Year performance on Dec.29-30.

Attendants will be able to participate in sledge competitions, snowball fights and medieval snow football. Actors dressed as medieval bards will entertain the public with song and dance. New Year Adventures. Interactive theatrical performance. Dec. 29-30. Kyivska Rus Park. Hr 40-80

Advertisement for Sky Kyiv Excursions in Kyiv, featuring city tours and contact information.

Animals Session (classic rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30

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

Va-Bank (brass duet). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Theaters

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

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

Shows

Ukraine's Main Christmas Tree. Palats Ukraina. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. Hr 40-200

The Legends Of Narnia (3D show). House of Officers. 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. Hr 130-390

The Legend Of Mulan (Cirque Phenix). Palats Sportu 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5:15 p.m. Hr 80-500

Magic World of Mary Poppins (New Year performance). Premier Palace (5-7/29 Tarasa Shevchenko Blvd.). 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m. Hr 100-300

Miscellaneous

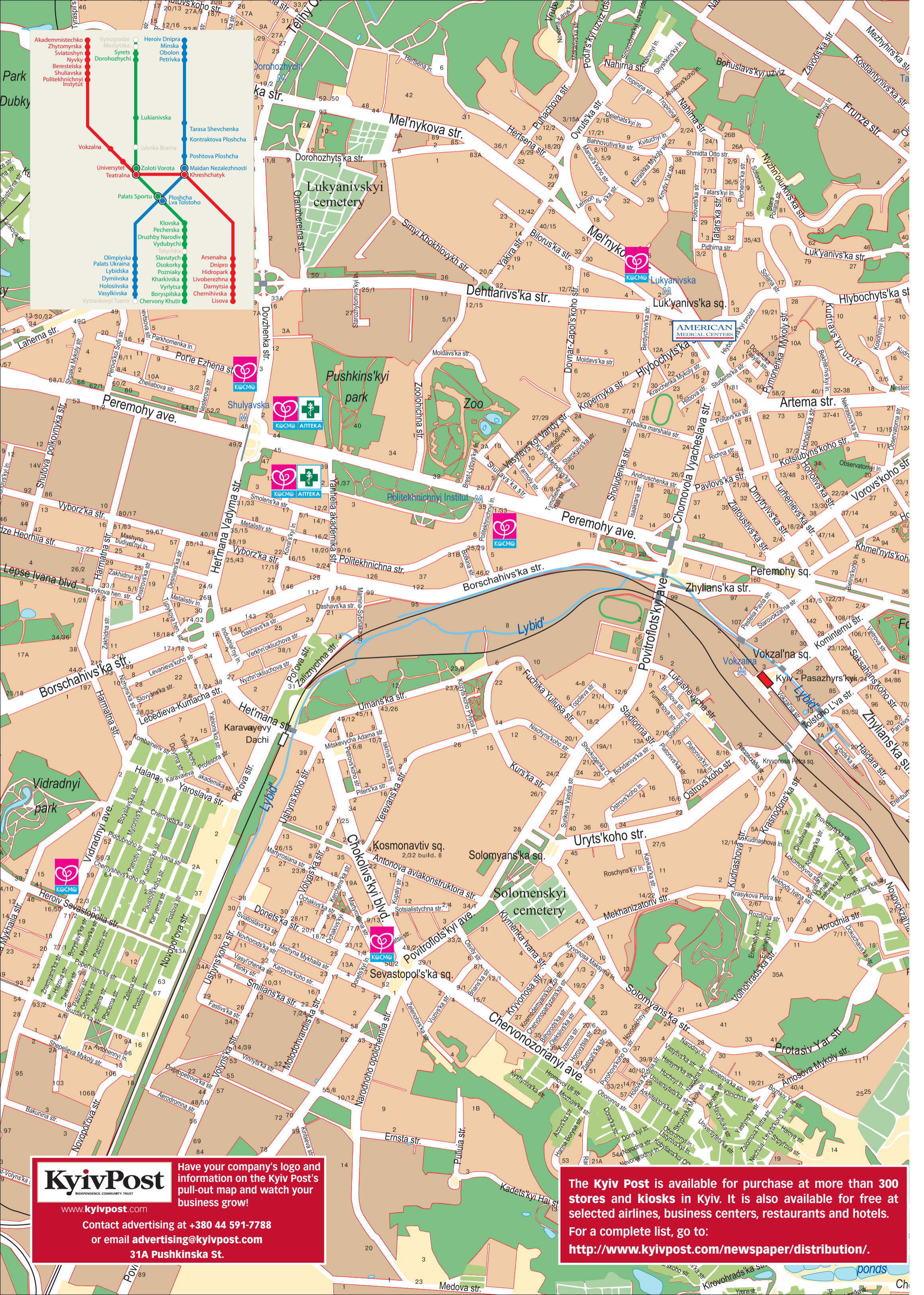
Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

ColourDreams (Anna Myhailychenko photo exhibition). Dreams Museum (55 Chigorina St.). 12:01 p.m. - 6 p.m. Hr 30

The New Year's Adventures. Kyivska Rus Park. Hr 40-80

Addresses of venues

- Comprehensive list of venues including National Philharmonic of Ukraine, House of Organ Music, National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music, and various theaters and clubs.



KyivPost
INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST

www.kyivpost.com

Contact advertising at +380 44 591-7788
or email advertising@kyivpost.com

31A Pushkinska St.

The Kyiv Post is available for purchase at more than 300 stores and kiosks in Kyiv. It is also available for free at selected airlines, business centers, restaurants and hotels. For a complete list, go to: <http://www.kyivpost.com/newspaper/distribution/>.

Tefft: US criticism 'is offered in spirit of cooperation and friendship'

→ 1 plentiful natural resources, especially some of the richest agricultural land on the planet.

A Ukraine that is fulfilling its potential – a prosperous, democratic and European Ukraine – would be a great partner for the U.S., much as it has been already in such important areas as preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. This valuable partnership could help us confront the many challenges that the world faces today: hunger, climate change, terrorism, and religious fundamentalism to name just a few.

Around the world, our best partnerships are with countries that share our values: democracy, the rule of law, human rights, free speech, and open markets. A Ukraine that shares those values, a Ukraine in which elections are free and where political opponents do not imprison one another, would be a country that could serve as an example to those of its neighbors who are also struggling with their own transitions to democracy and free market economies.

→ **Best partners with US are those who share values of democracy**

While we can help, it is up to Ukraine and to Ukrainians to realize their potential and to assume a global role commensurate with that potential. The U.S. has been Ukraine's largest bilateral donor of assistance over the last 20 years and we will continue to support Ukraine's efforts. However, real change must come from within and there are no easy fixes.

Take for instance, energy. Cheaper gas is not the answer to Ukraine's economic problems. It will not suddenly make Ukrainian companies globally competitive or its bureaucracy more efficient and transparent. Quite the opposite, it will only fuel dependency, inefficiency and corruption as it did in the past. Ukrainians must, like people everywhere, pay market price for their energy.

When this happened in your western neighbors in the former communist bloc, consumption of energy declined dramatically and the push to utilize domestic sources of energy became profitable. The same thing would happen here. Ukraine has enough resources to be almost energy independent – especially given the "shale gas revolution" which began in the U.S. – and Ukraine's own potential shale gas reserves. Such a development would fundamentally alter the energy relationship between Ukraine and Russia, a co-dependency that serves neither country's best interests.

Gas prices at market rates would also help Ukraine negotiate another agreement with the International Monetary Fund. A new IMF agree-

ment is the best short-term solution to help Ukraine deal with a very difficult financial situation in 2013. Ultimately, however, Ukraine will need to borrow money to cover its deficits, either domestically or internationally, or it will have to stop running deficits. However, IMF agreements are only supposed to be temporary packages to tide a country over until it can once again manage its finances on its own. They are not meant to be a permanent source of funding. That is why they include conditions that are intended to help a country make the necessary reforms to put it on a sound financial footing and on the path to sound economic growth.

When I first arrived here, a Ukrainian official told me that some of the world's best computer hackers were Ukrainians. Wouldn't it be better for Ukraine and the world if those hackers were instead creating new information technology companies; if the next Apple were a Ukrainian company? What would it take for that to happen? It would take a new business climate, one in which people with influence didn't feel empowered to harass and to shake down private enterprises. And for that to happen, Ukraine needs a new legal and judicial system, one that protects the rights of the individual rather than the interests of the state or well-connected insiders. Ukraine has taken some initial steps toward this goal, such as implementation of the new Criminal Procedure Code, but the nation still has work to do before the justice system can effectively tackle problems such as rampant corruption.

2013 will be my last year as the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. I will be sad to leave but that sadness will be lessened because I am so optimistic about the future of this country. In my three years here, I have met many impressive young Ukrainians: smart, honest and hard-working. I am confident that these young people will accept responsibility for making their country a better place – the sort of place in which one would want to live and raise children, knowing that those children had a chance at a better and more fulfilling life.

Children have been much on my mind of late, since the tragedy last week in Newtown, Connecticut. I would like to thank everyone in Ukraine who has expressed sympathy to us over this senseless tragedy.

In closing, I would like to recall U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's speech in Kyiv in early July 2010. She spoke of the long journey that is involved in building a democracy and society ruled by law. We understand that our Ukrainian friends are only 20 years into this process. The criticism that we offer Ukraine's government and society is offered in a spirit of friendship and solidarity.

Ukraine is an older country than America with its own proud traditions from which we can learn. I marvel every day at the strength and the resilience of the Ukrainian people who have endured centuries of suffering and have finally reclaimed their independence. I am confident that Ukrainian strength and resilience is ultimately what will see you through to a brighter, better future – *ç ĩ řâêĭ Dĭêĭ!*

John F. Tefft is America's ambassador to Ukraine.



NEWS ITEM: Many Kyivans are unhappy about poor municipal services. The streets are covered with ice and snow while icicles hang dangerously from roofs. According to the Kyiv health department, 650 people came to hospitals with broken limbs, pulled muscles, concussions and other injuries from falling on Dec. 16-17. City authorities say they are doing everything they can to clear the streets and sidewalks after a combination of heavy snow and sub-freezing temperatures gripped the city. They also said they have fined 500 businesses for not clearing their premises properly. The news elsewhere was grim in Ukraine, where at least 61 people froze to death throughout the nation. Government officials have set up emergency shelters in many cities, including Kyiv.



Holiday tree lights up Independence Square

On Dec. 19, Saint Nicholas Day, the lights of the main New Year's tree on Kyiv's Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square) are lit. Ukrainians are preparing to embark on a long holiday season, combining Western and Orthodox Christian traditions. Christmas Day is celebrated by most believers in the world on Dec. 25, but the holiday takes place on Jan. 7 in Ukraine. New Year's Day comes Jan. 1 and also on Jan. 14, according to the discarded Julian calendar. (Ukrafoto)

AMERICAN MEDICAL CENTERS

is proud to be a major supporter of the Ukrainian Down Syndrome Organization. For ten years, the organization has had a profound impact in offering expert advice, early intervention services and information for families, educators, and healthcare professionals.



This Holiday Season come into AMC and donate clothes, perishables, toys or money to support this truly remarkable organization. To learn how you can volunteer to help the Down Syndrome Organization, please visit www.downsyndrom.org.ua

From all of us at AMC, we wish you a healthy holiday season!



AMERICAN MEDICAL CENTERS

Call us at (044) 490 7600 or visit our website www.amcenters.com to learn more

Willard: Paid-for news destroys readers' trust in newspapers, TV

→4 as "enablers." They are, in fact, the problem, as much or more so than the news media that take money to place favorable stories.

As I once wrote (using a line from the cartoon strip Pogo): "We have met the enemy and he is us (corporations)."

If one is in the media business, it is easy to name respected East European leaders in technology, pharmaceutical, tobacco, agriculture, financial, fast-moving consumer goods - virtually every sector - who engage in purchasing press. Very few companies are lily white.

Purchased press sometimes happens without the knowledge of the CEO; but, more often, there is the leadership attitude that "when in Rome, do as the Roman's do." A new managing director might feel Pollyannaish if he squelched a long-time practice.

A marketing or PR director has several motives for buying press: It's easy. It's guaranteed placement and it is always nice to place a handful of article or video reports on the boss's desk and boast of the department's effectiveness.

Other than the fact that it is wrong, is there an argument to companies that purchasing press is simply not a good idea? Let me count the ways (a series of jabs to the Doughboy's soft belly here):

It is a slippery slope. Once you purchase a news story, it is difficult to go back to that publication or broadcast outlet and get coverage without

payment when you have legitimate news.

Purchased stories lack credibility. A reasonably intelligent person can discern a legitimate, objective story from one that is obviously one-sided.

A purchased story is often not even news but "positioning statements," slogans and advertising copy. Placed in a news context, they become platitudes.

It takes no talent to purchase stories. It should not be a function of PR. Let your PR agency or internal PR people do their jobs by promoting legitimate stories to the media.

Finally, whether in Memphis or Moscow, Kyiv or Krakow, a good story with news value will rise to the top of the stack and be published or broadcast. No editor wants to miss a good story.

Against a backdrop of fist-throwing legislators, official corruption so common it is blase, and incompetence so extreme that a prime minister can be hoodwinked into showing up at a ceremony for a bogus gas deal, purchased press might seem a single flea on a very dirty, shaggy dog - hardly consequential.

It is important, however. Big time. Transparency begins with people being able to have faith in the institutions that bring them the news. If they don't, all else remains a house of very unstable cards.

I am now ready for the second round in 2013.

Kyiv Post CEO Michael Willard can be reached at willard@kyivpost.com

Gretskiy: Customs Union, gas will dominate talks

→1 more important as negative developments hit the economy. Growing debts, an increasing trade deficit, falling currency reserves and export opportunities are weighing down the country as it gradually slips into recession.

Ukraine's government lacks resources for policy maneuvering and must make unpopular decisions to solve the economic crisis. The fact that Ukraine buys less natural gas from Russia does not indicate that the government successfully diversified energy supplies, or that Ukraine successfully introduced new energy-saving technologies.

Rather, it means that Ukraine is suffering a decline in industrial production. Domestic gas production is growing at a slow pace while investment risks deter foreign companies. Thus, in the next two or three years, the nation will have no real alternative to natural gas supplies from the east.

Meanwhile, Russia is engaged in costly energy projects and wants to hold on to Ukraine's profitable gas market. Consequently, both Russia and Ukraine have no alternative but to compromise.

While negotiating with Moscow, Ukraine's government will hardly change its tactics, and will strive to get a gas price reduction without any significant commitments in return. That goal was unsuccessfully pursued by Mykola Azarov's government over the past two years.

President Viktor Yanukovich recently said his nation preferred to only partially join the Customs Union. Meanwhile, in Europe, demand for natural gas supplies is decreasing as Ukraine continues to negotiate discounts that Gazprom has already given to EU partners.

On the other hand, Moscow will defi-

→ Ukraine's bargaining position weakens

nately prevail in forcing Ukraine to join the Customs Union. At first glance, membership in the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus trade group could help soothe Ukraine's crisis. Indeed, Ukraine's accession would eventually cheapen natural gas supplies, increase access of Ukrainian goods to the Customs Union market and boost Ukraine's gross domestic product.

But in the long run, such a decision would not be productive. Accession would mean a return to the model of relations that characterized the Soviet Union and the Central and Eastern European countries. Its essence: cheap resources in exchange for economic and political loyalty. Moreover, this measure would hardly encourage Ukrainian business to upgrade production, introduce new technologies and improve the quality of products and services.

Moreover, membership in the Customs Union would make the task of diversification of energy supplies less feasible. It would also bring an end to the game of playing Brussels against Moscow.

It seems that the Association Agreement with the EU would be a suitable alternative to the Customs Union. It is a desired goal both for the government and the opposition.

But adopting the Association Agreement will not instantly save

Ukraine. Meanwhile, Yanukovich is in desperate need of economic success stories before the next presidential election. In Brussels, however, there is no consensus on Ukraine.

Currently, the EU is engaged in tough disputes over its 2014-2020 budget and the fate of the euro. All foreign policy matters take a backseat.

The start of construction of the South Stream pipeline project complicates matters for Ukraine. Not only does the undersea project bypass Ukraine and deprive the nation of annual revenue for natural gas transit in the amount of up to \$3 billion, but it also aggravates the situation with Ukraine's energy security. The current poor natural gas market in Europe will not stop Gazprom from building a pipeline under the Black Sea. There is no doubt that the expensive South Stream project is about politics, not economics. It also serves as yet another argument to bring Ukraine into the Customs Union.

Despite the Ukrainian government's optimistic statements, the nation is far from the desired diversification of its energy supplies. The recent Ukrainian-Spanish deal to build a strategic liquefied natural gas terminal ended in a fiasco while the prospects for shale gas production are still unclear.

If the South Stream pipeline is built to schedule by 2015, given the energy intensive industry and the poorly diversified energy supply system, Ukraine remains one-on-one with Moscow with no weighty arguments in its favor.

Igor Gretskiy is an associate professor at the School of International Relations at St. Petersburg State University. He specializes in Russia's foreign relations with Ukraine and Poland.

RHENUS LOGISTICS

Together with Passion

RHENUS REVIVAL
your logistics partner in Ukraine and all over the world

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION

- International deliveries via road / sea / air / rail
- Consolidation of all European cargoes in Frankfurt for CIS countries
- FTL/LTL

WAREHOUSE

- Cold warehouse 9 000 m² t +4 C and +16 C
- Warehouses, class A for storage FMCG goods
- Bonded warehouses, class A
- Warehouse services: picking, FIFO/FEFO, shrinking, labeling, etc

DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION

- Domestic Distribution all over Ukraine to more than 520 consignees, "door to door"; from one box to full truck;

CUSTOMS BROKERAGE

- All necessary services for import/export/transit procedures provided by Customs Brokerage Department
- Consulting in Customs and bonded warehouse procedures

We are working in accordance to Standard ISO 9001:2008

Rhenus Revival LLC +38 067 215 85 36 Affiliated branch of Rhenus Revival
Promyslova Str. 18 +38 044 459 03 22 Zhitomirskoye shosse, 21 km
08702 Obukhiv +38 044 499 95 71 08114 Stoyanka
e-mail: sale@ua.rhenus.com - web: www.rhenus.com

Gorchinskaya: Big events to watch out for in 2013

→1 lot to do, since it grabbed international headlines in 2012 with illegal tissue trade scandals.

Also, President Viktor Yanukovich said on Dec. 13 that Ukraine during its chairmanship will "offer our vision of a European security system."

Apart from the heavy hangover from too many holidays, January is expected to bring at least three things.

Firstly, expect severe cash shortages. The Finance Ministry's current account balance stood at a paltry Hr 6 billion as of mid-December.

Negotiations with the International Monetary Fund are due to restart in late January. But despite the government's optimism and market expectations, the IMF is unlikely to bail out Ukraine without having assurances that it will move on longstanding issues, including hiking household gas prices, letting the currency float and tightening the 2013 budget.

Thirdly, the European Court for Human Rights is expected to produce a ruling on imprisoned ex-Prime Minister's Yulia Tymoshenko's first lawsuit in Europe. She challenges the legality of her arrest, a position backed even by the government-commissioned report produced by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom law firm recently.

The annual Ukraine-EU summit, which wasn't held in 2012, is scheduled for Feb. 25. The summit is the most important and highest level bilateral meeting between the two entities. The Association Agreement will feature high on the agenda, as well as Tymoshenko's imprisonment and its

effect on European integration.

Spring will bring a crop of five elections in five single-mandate districts. The exact dates are yet to be scheduled by the new parliament, which convened on Dec. 12, but the fight for the remaining Rada seats will be fierce.

The city of Kyiv will have elections. The mayoral campaign is due to start sometime this spring as the legal deadline for city mayor elections approaches. Although the deadline runs out in May, the election is expected to take place in June, but consensus is yet to emerge on when and indeed if it will happen.

The Cox-Kwasniewski mission, named after Pat Cox, the former European Parliament president, and Aleksander Kwasniewski, former president of Poland, ends in spring. Designed to help make peace inside of Ukraine in the Tymoshenko case, the mission enters 2013 without achieving any significant results.

Ukraine is expected to bid this summer to host the 2022 Winter Olympics. After receiving bids, the International Olympics Committee is expected to choose a shortlist in 2014 and announce the winner in 2015.

Crimea will get its usual influx of tourists during the high season, and possibly increased interest from foreigners after National Geographic Traveler included it in its top 20 places worth visiting next year.

Ukraine will host an Ecumenical Patriarch Conference in the summer, but both the dates and the agenda are still to be set.

Autumn will kick off with a jubilee

10th Yalta European Strategy Summit in September. The conference has become one of the biggest national forums where domestic and international issues are discussed.

The International Congress of Bee Keepers will also take place on Sept. 29-Oct. 4. It may not seem like a big deal, but it's expected to bring 12,000 bee specialists from across the globe to a nation that happens to be one of the most successful globally in the business. Since 2008, Ukraine ranks first in the production of honey among European nations.

Leipzig Hotel, a jewel in the center of Kyiv, is due to open, predicts Ernst & Young. The hotel is owned by Mohammad Zahoor's ISTIL Group, which publishes the Kyiv Post.

The long-awaited Association Agreement will be signed in November, assuming Ukraine makes progress in ending selective prosecution (read: free Tymoshenko and former Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko). The 1,000-page agreement contains a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement within its structure, which would in the long term help Ukraine's economy integrate into, and work by the rules of, the European market.

After winning Junior Eurovision on Dec. 1, Ukraine will host the event a year later. It will cost the budget at least Hr 25 million, which is less than the Hr 37 million Ukraine spent on the adult version of the competition in 2009.

Kyiv Post editor Katya Gorchinskaya can be reached at gorchinskaya@kyivpost.com.

Don't miss any entertainment event over the holiday season! Read the Kyiv Post's Going Out Guide every day online at www.kyivpost.com

→21



Oleh Skrypka

Traditional ways to ring in New Year



Film Critic

WITH ELENA PASHKOVSKAYA
PASHKOVSKAYA@KYIVPOST.COM

An expected journey with 'The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey'

Everybody who enjoyed "The Lord Of The Rings" epic trilogy was looking forward to when another John Ronald Reuel Tolkien book, "The Hobbit," would hit the screen.

It took two years and \$500 million to turn this fantasy tale, prequel to "The Lord of the Rings," into another impressive franchise, the first episode of which premiered in Ukraine on Dec. 19.

New Line Cinema studio decided to divide "The Hobbit" into three movies, to go through every detail and make as much money as possible. Part one is called "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

The action starts in the hobbit homeland, the Shire, with its cozy holes, green grass and peaceful atmosphere. The measured, bucolic life of hobbit Bilbo Baggins (played by Martin Freeman, best known as Dr. Watson from the BBC's Sherlock series) came to a sudden end when the mysterious magician Gandalf came to his house.

Bilbo then finds himself joining a company of 13 dwarves, led by legendary warrior and dwarve king, Thorin Oakenshield. Thorin and his fellowship are off on an epic journey to find their kin's lost treasure and revive their kingdom.

During the three-hour movie they meet goblins, orcs, elves, stone giants and wargs, a kind of deadly wolf.

As both "The Lord Of The Rings" and "The Hobbit" were directed by Peter Jackson, they share style and soundtrack. Most importantly, though, the characters involved in both stories are played by the same cast.

Purists will point to discrepancies between book and movie. Notably, some scenes or qualities were changed to be more impressive. For example, dwarves made to look younger and more stylish than Tolkien's grim version. But each one still has his own specific features and hairstyle – they are loud, naughty but brave and faithful.

An impressive budget of \$180 million gave room for use of even the most advanced technologies. This is the first film shot at 48 frames per second instead of the normal 24 frames. And of course, its in 3D.

Mass battles, beautiful scenery, an amazing fortress, dynamic scenes of chasing and flying, curious creatures - it all looks perfect in 3D and IMAX theaters. Some scenes are so →21



Kyiv's Independence Square will be rich with bright lights and decorations throughout the Christmas and New Year's holidays. (Ukrafoto)

BY OLGA RUDENKO
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

When in Rome, do as the Romans. The same applies for visitors to Ukraine. It's easy to learn how to celebrate New Year's here since today's traditions are a leftover from the Soviet era. For some, the hardest part is the stamina it takes to be a glutton for 13 consecutive days.

Celebrate thrice. Before ushering

in the New Year, one must send off the old one. To do that, people used to gather at the table around 11 p.m. and raise the first toast in Moscow time. This year those following the tradition will start early, as the Russian capital is now two hours ahead of Kyiv. The two-hour interim is spent talking and eating before the Kyiv midnight celebration begins. But it's not over until Jan. 14, the start of the New Year under the old Julian calendar. It is not celebrated

as widely anymore, but TV stations still broadcast reruns of New Year's programs on Jan 13, and many families celebrate all over again.

Choose your champagne carefully. Forget Asti and Veuve Clicquot. The most authentic choice of champagne for the New Year's table is Sovetskoe. It is another touch of nostalgia since many Ukrainians can afford more expensive champagne but still choose the cheap Soviet-era brand.

Pyramids of Sovetskoe boxes appear in stores at least a month before the New Year. Depending on the manufacturer, a bottle of Sovetskoe costs Hr 25 to Hr 45. Another popular choice is Artyomovskoe. Produced in Donetsk Oblast, it costs about Hr 50.

Eat tangerines. In Ukraine, there wasn't always a wide range of fruits available in stores year-round. Decades ago, tangerines harvested in the Soviet Union's southern areas were →18

Advertising: +380 44 591-7788 advertising@kyivpost.com

Editorial staff: +380 44 591-3344 news@kyivpost.com

Subscriptions: +380 44 591-3408 subscribe@kyivpost.com



Kyiv, 22, Lavrs'ka Str.,
(044) 288-9775, 280-3066
www.tsarske.kiev.ua



Traditionally a lot of food and drink – more than can be consumed in one sitting – should be on the holiday table in Ukraine. (Halyna Horishna)



A screenshot from Ironia Sudbi, or The Irony of Fate, a classic 1975 Soviet romantic comedy that still delights audiences on New Year's Day.



Kyiv's main Khreshchatyk Street is festively decorated during the holidays. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Big feasts, many rituals accompany New Year's fun

→ **17** brought to stores not long before the New Year, making the juicy fruit the season's treat.

Follow the Chinese calendar. This is perhaps the cheesiest tradition ever. The Chinese (also called the Eastern) calendar, which defines each year with one of 12 totem animals, is very popular in Ukraine. It's a great help for those who have to get a last-minute present or look for a little something to give to somebody they don't really care about. Each December, all kinds of souvenirs made in the shape of the next year's mascot fill the stores. 2013 is the year of the snake. Making it look cute is a tough task for retailers.

No resolutions or kisses, but make wishes. Don't try to kiss anyone at midnight, the gesture probably will be misinterpreted. There is no



Sovetskoe champagne is the most authentic choice for the New Year's table. (Blogspot.com)

tradition of kissing at midnight in Ukraine and New Year's resolutions aren't pledged. But wishes will do. The most popular way to make a wish is

complicated, though. When the clock strikes midnight, one must write a wish on a tiny piece of paper, then burn it all, throwing the ashes into a glass of champagne and drinking it. If all that is done before the clock strikes midnight, the wish is believed to come true.

Eat lavishly. That's a basic rule of celebration. There must be a lot of food on the holiday table. And when we say a lot, we mean much more than people can possibly eat in one sitting. Usually, holiday table leftovers feed the family for at least several days after the celebration. And the New Year's table is dominated by olivier salad. Made of potatoes, ham, eggs, pickles and dressed with mayonnaise, olivier is as much a symbol of New Year as turkey is of Thanksgiving Day. Among other must-haves are red caviar, usually put on but-

tered white bread, shuba salad (made of herrings, potatoes and beet), shproti (smoked and preserved kipper fish) and holodets (jellied minced meat).

Make midnight calls. There is a practice of calling close friends and family members minutes after midnight and congratulating them. That makes cellular networks temporarily overload every year. Knowing that, many prefer making calls in advance or send texts.

Watch the president's speech. It's not that Ukraine's presidents have been very original in their New Year speeches, but they do bring a personal style to it. Leonid Kuchma used to deliver speech from the coziness of his home, sitting near the fireplace with his grandson. Viktor Yushchenko preferred recording his speech at Sofiivska Square. President Viktor

Yanukovich does it standing next to the Presidential Administration building. The speech is broadcast right before midnight and is followed up by the clock striking midnight.

Watch The Irony of Fate. If there is a movie incarnation of New Year, it is Ironia Sudbi, or The Irony of Fate, a Soviet romantic comedy from 1975. The movie produced dozens of popular quotes and is a true encyclopedia of Soviet humor and lifestyle. Nostalgic or not, many Ukrainians still enjoy watching it. Usually, at least two Ukrainian TV stations show it on New Year's day, with first often starting in the afternoon, long before the midnight celebration.

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

Gifting season has begun!

Сезон подарунків розпочався!

Christmas ornaments
Ялинкові прикраси

From 25 грн

Leather piggy banks
Шкіряні скарбоньки

From 65 грн

Shawls & pashminas
Шалі та пашміни

From 150 грн

Golf-style bar set
Набір для бару «Гольф»

From 720 грн

Silk scarves
Шовкові хустини

From 60 грн

Leather wallets
Шкіряні гаманці

From 195 грн

Wine bottle holders «RICKSHAW»
Тримач для пляшки «РІКША»

From 490 грн

Cut this coupon and get a free gift!*
Пред'явник купону отримає подарунок!*

1. Нанести паперу універсальної розміру.
2. Задружувати між пальцями, відірвати.
3. «Шовковий шал» замість за собою право вибрати одну без подарунків подарунок.
*Тільки подарунок миттєво на урядових приладах 100% за 0.01 грн.

SILK ROUTE

Metrograd, Gifts section • Metrograd, Furniture section
Метроград, Квартал подарунків • Метроград, Квартал меблів

Tel. 2270819, 2270833; www.silkroute.kiev.ua
For corporate purchases / Для корпоративних замовлень info@silkroute.kiev.ua

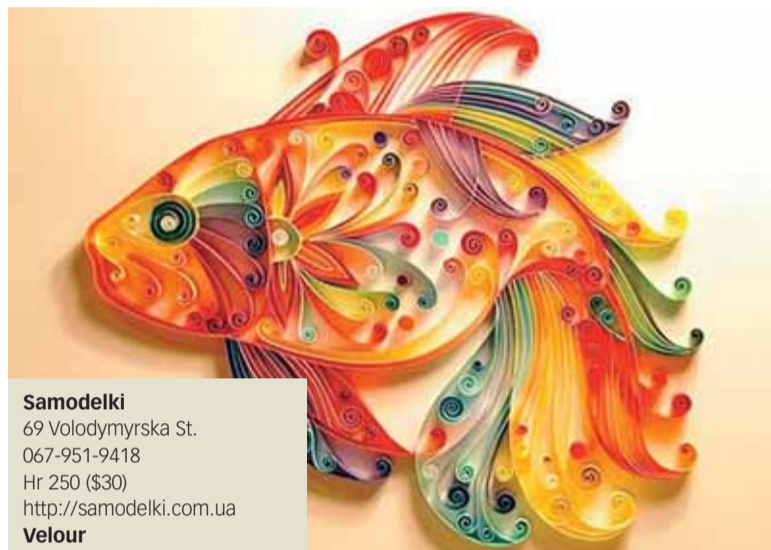
Surprise friends with these gifts

Picking original Christmas presents, particularly on a tight budget, is never easy. For those who want to avoid handing out sweaters and ties, the Kyiv Post prepared a list of Christmas gift ideas and tips on how to pick the one that suits you best.

Handmade gift

Nothing says time and thought like a handmade present, and Kyiv offers several places that will teach you how. The master class on paper quilling, for instance, is a nice opportunity to learn how to make unique Christmas cards. This craft first became popular in 14th century France and Italy, and revolves around the complicated process of coiling and shaping narrow colorful paper strips.

Techniques for decorating New Year toys and candles can also be learned, like decoupage, the French art of pasting cutouts to an object and then covering it with varnish. There are also master classes on soap making and felting, although these are only available in Russian or Ukrainian. Organizers will typically provide all the materials, allowing you to take the masterpieces home.



Samodelki
69 Volodymyrska St.
067-951-9418
Hr 250 (\$30)
<http://samodelki.com.ua>
Velour
13/21 Taras Shevchenko Lane
Hr 200-1140 (\$25-140)
<http://velour.kiev.ua>

Many people cherish handmade gifts over store-bought ones. (thedesignquest.com)



Here are some useful links for more information and contacts
http://vokal.kiev.ua/ru/catalog_yslygi_centra/rubric_2865/ (greetings in English, Russian and Ukrainian)
<http://jvj.com.ua/> (in Russian and Ukrainian)

Hiring out Snow Maiden (Snegurichka) and Father Frost (Ded Moroz) will brighten holiday spirits. (ivanteevka.olx.ru)

Greeting from Father Frost, Snow Maiden

Who says Father Frost and Snow Maiden don't exist? They do and it's easy to hire them for a Christmas celebration at work or at home in Kyiv.

From traditional New Year performances to ones featuring well-known cartoon characters, there are plenty of event agencies offering such services for any taste and budget.

Prices start at Hr 80-200 for a half hour and top out at Hr 800-1,100 for a long party. Some services are quite inventive, like having the Christmas couple come to your house on horses.

This kind of New Year service became popular in Ukraine in the 2000s, according to Maryna Kuzmenko, who has been running the event agency Jevjek since 2006. "The amount of orders has grown rapidly (since 2006) and that goes for all the event agencies offering such services," she says.

Gifts for active leisure

For those who want to take out a friend or loved one out, there are plenty of active leisure options. Most can be ordered online. An hour of roller skating or ice skating for two will cost Hr 120, while the chance to learn skiing and snowboarding techniques in Protasiv Yar in Kyiv costs Hr 200. An hour of horse riding for two costs Hr 650. And this is not the end of the

list. Rock climbing and figure skating classes are among a huge variety of activities available for order.

Note: Emozzi tends to offer more affordable prices compared to Bodo.

For more information go to
<http://www.emozzi.com.ua>
or www.bodo.com.ua



Plenty of ice for skating in Kyiv. (sunduchok.org)



Put a book poster on the wall. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Book posters

Modern intellectuals should love this one.

A variety of world classic literature, including Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles," Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" or Antoine de Saint-Exupery's "Le Petit Prince" are now available in a handy format. Called Knigli, the project of making book posters was launched several months ago and has already become very popular among Kyivans,

who buy about 400 Knigli posters per month, each at a cost of Hr 200 (\$25).

To fit a whole book into one poster, an extremely small font is used. Some Knigli posters use 4.5 font.

For more information go to
<http://www.knigli.com/>

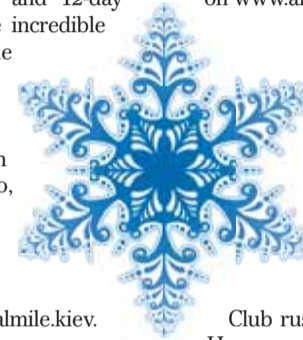
Five ways to spend winter holidays

BY ELENA PASHKOVSKAYA
PASHKOVSKAYA@KYIVPOST.COM

Winter holidays are always greeted with much anticipation. For those who want a break from tradition, the Kyiv Post offers these uncommon activities:

North Pole vacation

For those who love frigid adventures, the North Pole awaits. Different tours offer 24-hour and 12-day stays. Besides of the incredible nature and extreme conditions, there is also entertainment to be had such as visiting the Russian ice station Borneo, taking a ski trip, riding a dog sled and even scuba diving. More information can be found at royalmile.kiev.ua.



Volunteering

The New Year and Christmas are times for miracles and kindness. Volunteering can help achieve both. A lot of kids are living in hospitals and orphanage, waiting for gifts and attention. For example, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine needs caring sponsors. Those with no money to spend can help organize charity events or play Santa for children. The HIV/AIDS Alliance can be reached on www.aidsalliance.org.ua

Learn a language

A two-week vacation is enough time to start an intensive course in a foreign language. For Westerners, Russian would come in handy. Such courses are available at the Russian Club russianclub.com.ua and cost Hr 100 per hour.

After world ends

Maya's long-gone civilization predicted the apocalypse this year. But more likely, the Mexican area will see tourists after Dec. 21. The former Mayan kingdom has huge pyramids and beautiful castles and much more. According to the Nova Travel, tours cost \$630-\$790, not including flight and insurance.

Learn to play guitar

One way to get in touch with one's musical talents (or lack thereof) is to take guitar lessons. In two weeks of individual classes, a person could learn one simple song or how to strum some common chords. Rock Station studio www.rockstation.kiev.ua also provides group classes, where students can gather in real bands. Individual classes cost Hr 150 per two hours, and for group classes, Hr 400 per month.

Kyiv Post staff writer Elena Pashkovskaya can be reached at pashkovskaya@kyivpost.com

Stay at home

For homebodies, there are movies to watch, and thanks to Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk), it all can be done comfortably and legally.

ibis Kiev Shevchenko Boulevard wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ibis HOTEL

ibis Kiev Shevchenko Boulevard
25, Taras Shevchenko Blvd.
tel.: +380 (44) 591-2222
www.ibisrestaurant.com
www.ibishotel.com

Beauty treatments touted for curing the winter blues

BY ANASTASIA FORINA
FORINA@KYIVPOST.COM

Frosty weather and busy holiday preparations can wreak havoc on a person's skin and body. To overcome the stress, the Kyiv Post offers a selection of beauty treatments that some think will restore healthy looks.

Kriotherapy

Kriotherapy is touted for its benefits to the face and immune system. The procedure lasts three minutes. Dressed in underwear only, the subject stands inside a sauna where three fans blow cold air at temperatures from -130 C to -170 C over a person's body.

"It boosts the immunity and metabolism and has a facelift effect," says Svitlana Melnykova, administrator at Tonus Studio beauty salon, which offers kriotherapy among other services. One course consists of 15 procedures. "A woman suffering from chronic tonsillitis had no problems with health for more than two years after a course of kriotherapy," she says, adding that most clients return for a second course.



Fans of kriotherapy say it helps boost immune system during winter. (Courtesy)

Kriotherapy is offered in many beauty salons in Kyiv at the price of Hr 180-250. A kriotherapy course costs Hr 1,600-3,000

Tonus Studio
4a Raisy Okipnoi St.
(044) 360-7516, 221-9016
<http://kriosauna.com.ua>
Versal
58/2 Artema St.
353-0050
<http://versal-vip.com.ua>

Paraffin therapy

"Paraffin therapy is a classical procedure when it comes to hands treatment, especially in the winter period," says Angelina Gevorgyz, director at Cacao beauty salon. Hands will be bathed in hot paraffin, a white wax-like substance for a few seconds. Then the person puts on cotton gloves for 15 minutes. "Unlike creams that will wash out, paraffin covers the skin with a protective sheath. It has a nourishing and moisturizing effect," Gevorgyz says.

Paraffin therapy is available in most beauty salons in Kyiv for Hr 80-100

Cacao
47 Chervonoarmiyska St.
(044) 289-6139
<http://kakao.net.ua>
La fleur
26/41 Pavlivska St.
(044) 238-8397
<http://lafleur-salon.com.ua>

Fish massage

Here's an unusual way to relax those sore legs.

Customers put their legs knee-high into an aquarium with 300 little Asian fishes, Garra Rufa, better-known as doctor fishes. They nibble the rough skin away for about 20 minutes. The procedure is followed by a 20-minute massage. "Apart from nail and skin care, it improves blood circulation and even could make up for pedicure if done once a week regularly during a month," says Kateryna Melnykova, administrator at Fish massage. "This procedure was once offered in VIP beauty salons for Hr 900 but now it's available at a moderate price (of Hr



Fans of fish massage say the treatment improves blood circulation by letting little Asian fishes known as Garra Rufa nibble on legs. (Courtesy)

89)," she says. Garra Rufa are imported from Singapore for Hr 50 each, according to Melnykova.

"My colleagues and I often go for a fish massage during our lunch break. It helps to take rest from work," says Alina Kravchenko.

Hr 89 for fish massage, Hr 130 for fish massage followed with regular massage. Kids under two are not allowed.

Fish massage salon
1B Obolonsky Ave. 3rd floor
2B Obolonsky Ave. (Aquapark)
34B Moskovsky Ave.
(044) 362-1820, 362-9233
<http://www.fishmassage.ua>

Individual cosmetics

For those not satisfied with the cosmetics on sale in shops and beauty salons, consider visiting the I.C. Lab,

which sells individual facial and eyelid creams. A video scan technology is used to get information about a client's skin, including moisture level, pore size and depth of wrinkles, says Olena Adamchuk, general director of I.C. Lab. The information goes to a laboratory in Cyprus, where the creams are made. "This cosmetic is designated for women 25 and older. But we can make an individual cream for younger women as well," Adamchuk says.

A test and cream will cost Hr 1,300 (15 milliliters)

I.C.Lab
7/11 Khreshchatyk St., 2nd floor
(044) 360-8108, (093) 780-79-77
<http://www.ic-lab.com.ua>

Kyiv Post staff writer Anastasia Forina can be reached at forina@kyivpost.com.



Dipping hands in a white wax-like substance is said to have a nourishing and moisturizing effect. (zendayspa.com)

INDULGE IN YOUR SELECTION FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE.

What defines your perfect New Year's Eve? A feasting family, jubilant friends or candlelight and fine wine? Experience excellence, whichever your preference.

OLYMPIA
CENTRAL
HUSH

To reserve a table, please call:
+38 050 355 25 68 (Mon-Fri, 10:00-18:00)
Rooms available at the special price of €150 per room per night to all New Year Eve guests.

INTERCONTINENTAL
KYIV

In over 170 location across the globe including KYIV • LONDON • NEW YORK • PARIS

Uplok
узбекская чайхана

- Gorgeous eastern show
- The best Uzbek food
- From 9A.M. till the last guest

www.uruk.com.ua
11, Yaroslaviv Val Str., Kyiv • Phones: 235-14-29, 235-15-96, 093-687-14-14

HIMALAYA
THE INDIAN RESTAURANT • BUSINESS LUNCH HR 65
ONLY AUTHENTIC INDIAN CUISINE IN CITY CENTER

23 Khreshchatyk Str., Tel: 270-54-37
www.himalaya.com.ua,
reservation@himalaya.com.ua

a Free drink

Dolls
men's club

57/3
Chervonoarmiyska St.
M.Olimpiyska
tel.: (099) 380-77-44
www.dolls-club.com
every day
from 8 pm. till 6 am

End of world: Some fear as others try to cash in

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

For the last three years, 27-year-old Kyivan Iryna Boyko has been searching the Internet to find out exactly what's going to happen on Dec. 21, 2012, when the Mayan calendar runs out. Doomsayers say the world will end that day from an unknown catastrophe.

Although Boyko says she hasn't found credible proof of a cataclysm, she still believes an apocalypse is likely in the more distant future. Boyko, however, tries to avoid pessimistic thoughts. "I believe that what we think about is going to happen," she said. "If many people have some negative thoughts, something bad will definitely occur."

While Boyko declined to make any special preparations for Dec. 21, many Ukrainians who share her anxiety did. Some have sought shelter, stockpiled on food, bought candles and matches. Others saw an opportunity to make money from Armageddon angst.

Most of the gloomy scenarios relate to three planets that will be clustered together on Dec. 21, also winter solstice day. But astronomer Ivan Kriachko said in fact this will be a minor astronomical phenomenon, formed by Mercury, Venus and Saturn, adding that "parades" like this occur almost every year.

"This configuration of planets poses no danger to us," Kriachko assured. "Their gravitational influence on us will be insignificant in comparison to

that of the Moon or Sun, which we feel all the time."

Meanwhile, polls by Research & Branding Group show that only 4 percent of Ukrainians are unaware of a possible apocalypse on Dec. 21, one-third of them said they were seriously thinking about Doomsday, and more than 10 percent confessed that they were preparing for it.

Numerous celebrities, including pop-singer Iryna Bilyk and artist Sergiy Poyarkov appeared on TV saying they have already acquired bunkers to meet the scary day safely and comfortably. Less prosperous Ukrainians decided to rent a shelter for a short period, coughing up between \$200 and \$1,500 for a 24-hour stay.

"Around 50 people have already bought spots," said one man who refused to be identified. He was selling spots in a former air-raid shelter in Dniprodzherzhynsk, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, advertising his service through the Internet. For \$200 he offered heated and lighted accommodation, constantly warning that places in the bunker were limited.

Another man who also didn't give his name was renting out underground storage space at an old Polish military base, located in the woods near Kyiv, advertising it with the words "even a nuclear war will not harm you here." "You pay Hr 4,000 (about \$490) for two days, and then we will see if you need it longer," he said.

Other companies started offering



Doomsayers believe the world may end on Dec. 21, the day when Mayan calendar runs out. (day-of-doom.com)

spiritual services for the possible apocalypse. The metaphysical magazine Koleso Zhizni (Wheel of Life) organized a special forum-seminar End of the World, promoting a number of so-called personal growth trainings under the principle "To save the world you

have to save yourself first."

The Kyiv Dream Museum announced a special event on Dec. 21, inviting a DJ and a psychoanalyst with plans to discuss "topics of personal death and ruin of the entire world."

Even a new women's strip club

called Krasnaya Shapochka (Little Red Riding Hood) placed ads around Kyiv calling on goers to "Rock out as for the last time," making this party the official opening of the venue.

But the organizers of these events assured the Kyiv Post they didn't believe an apocalypse will take place on Dec. 21. "What end of the world are you talking about? All will be fine!" said one of Krasnaya Shapochka's staff workers, adding the entrance fee to the party is Hr 200 (around \$25.)

Kriachko, the astronomer, called the rumors about Doomsday on Dec. 21 "a big folly." "Certain people invented this to earn (money selling) salt, candles and bunkers, and others fell for this trick," he said.

According to polls mostly women, the elderly people and rural dwellers tend to worry about some catastrophe on Dec. 21. The apocalyptic fears are also more common in the central regions of Ukraine, while people in the east and west of the country were less likely to believe in the end of the world.

"In the west people are more religious," said social psychologist Oleg Pokalchuk. "And in the east, people don't worry because they got used to living in state of catastrophe, an ecological one for example. They already have the end of the world."

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Grytsenko can be reached at grytsenko@kyivpost.com



Screenshot from "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" movie (Courtesy)

Film Critic: Another exciting Tolkien fantasy romp with 'The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey'

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Kyiv
2.15 p.m., 8 p.m. - Hr. 55-80
19 Velyka Vasyliivska St., 234-7381
kievino.com.ua

IMAX

10 a.m. 1:05 p.m. 4:10 p.m. 7:20 p.m.,
10:30 p.m. - Hr. 100-120
43B Moskovsky Av., 0 800 300 600
planeta-kino.com.ua/theatres/imax-
kiev

Kinopalace

11:40 am, 2:50 p.m., 6 p.m. - Hr. 40-70
1 Institutka St., 490-70-60
www.kinopalace.net
see more at kino-teatr.ua

→ **17** powerful, frightening or exciting as to bring out the inner kid in you. And it is interesting even for those who know nothing about Tolkien's universe.

When "The Hobbit" is over, it's hard to believe that three hours had passed so fast and you won't see any more of the Tolkien-Jackson world until Dec. 13, 2013. That's when the next part, "The Desolation of Smaug," comes to the theaters. The brave company's adventures will come to the end on July 18, 2014, when "The Hobbit: There and Back Again," brings an end to the cult series.

Kyiv Post staff writer Elena Pashkovskaya can be reached at pashkovskaya@kyivpost.com

Christmas in Dream Land on Jan. 7-8

The annual Christmas Dream Land Festival, to take place Jan. 7 and 8 in Mamayeva Sloboda, an outdoor museum a short drive from the city center, is a good opportunity to celebrate Orthodox Christmas in authentic Ukrainian style. A crafts fair, a series of master classes in traditional Ukrainian crafts, carol singing and lots of Christmas gigs await the visitors. Ukraine's best known rock band Vopli Vodopliasova, ethnic band Kozak System & Taras Chubai and others are expected to perform. Visitors will also have a chance to try traditional Cossack dishes and go tobogganing.

For more information go to <http://www.krainamiry.com/news.php?category=148>

Christmas Dream Land Festival.
Jan. 7-8. Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 50



Ganna Bernyk

Jan. 7-8



eda.2k.ua

'Coffee with a Star' on KOZYRNAYA EDA



Is it true that Yuriy Gorbunov likes traditional Ukrainian borsch?

What is a favourite cuisine of Alena Vinnitskaya?

What food and drinks prefers Ruslana?

Look for celebrities' food tastes in 'Coffee with a Star' section on www.eda.2k.ua





The World Bank is seeking a Financial Sector Consultant

Over the last 20 years the World Bank has been actively supporting Ukraine's transition to a market economy and its efforts to reduce poverty. The World Bank's Finance and Private Sector Development Department in Ukraine focuses on strengthening financial sector stability and soundness, improving supervision and consumer protection.

The financial sector consultant will contribute to all aspects of financial sector work in Ukraine, including: research, analytical reports, monitoring legal, regulatory and institutional changes, supervision of the existing projects and preparation of new projects, policy dialogue with the government, financial regulators, private sector and other stakeholders, participation in World Bank projects in Belarus and Moldova as needed, and other forms of logistical support, including translation of documents and planning of meetings.

The desired candidate will display: strong knowledge of the World Bank's vision and role, especially in Ukraine, strong knowledge of financial sector policy-makers, regulators, and financial institutions active in Ukraine, financial analytical skills, including ability to analyze balance sheets, income statements, central bank reporting on banking sector performance, knowledge of Ukraine's legal, regulatory framework, ability to communicate fluently in Ukrainian, Russian, and English, ability to work respectfully in a team-based environment.

The consultant contract is for 150 days for the period December 17, 2012 to June 28, 2013, with the possibility for extension.

Please submit expression of interest and curriculum vitae (CV) to Ms. Colleen Mascenik, cmascenik@worldbank.org. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

CLIFFORD CHANCE

is currently seeking an outstanding candidate for the position of a mid-level associate to join our corporate practice in Kyiv. Our corporate team advises on many of the region's largest and most complex M&A transactions and high profile deals.

MID-LEVEL ASSOCIATE (CORPORATE)

YOUR PROFILE:

- You have a law degree from a reputable Ukrainian law school and, preferably, an LL.M degree from a top U.S. or U.K. law school.
- You have at least 4 years of relevant post qualification experience with a top international or Ukrainian law firm. Any work experience gained abroad with top international law firms would be an advantage.
- You are fluent in English, Ukrainian and Russian.
- You have excellent transactional experience and document drafting skills.
- You demonstrate strong communication and analytical skills and a high level of commercial awareness.

KEY ATTRactions:

- You will work on ground-breaking deals for top tier clients across the world.
- We run a sophisticated internal training programme that is unmatched in the region.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE POSITION:

please send your CV to yuliya.spaska@cliffordchance.com



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

is looking for a qualified professional to fill in the position of

SOCIAL POLICY OFFICER.

Under the supervision of the Deputy Representative the person will be responsible for effective engagement in social policy dialogue with the Government for programme development, advocating for increased public resource allocation and budgeting towards the social sector.

Please submit your applications to recruitment_kiev@unicef.org

More detailed information can be found at http://www.unicef.org/ukraine/overview_10566.html

English (native speaker) teacher for corporate clients.

Seeking an experienced English Language trainer to join our staff in the English Language Training Courses. Please forward your resume with a brief cover letter and salary requirements.



international system of foreign language schools

Responsibilities include:

- Giving English language training sessions in accordance with the existing program
- Monitoring trainee progress

Preferred requirements include:

- Native English language speaker (USA, UK, Canada)
- Higher education (bachelor degree or ESL/EFL)
- Strong communication skills
- Prior English teaching experience (1year+)
- Excellent organizational skills
- Team spirit

Contact person:

Irina

teacher@dschool.com.ua

Mob.phone: 067 505 90 77



European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has a unique challenge to assist the countries of central and eastern Europe and the CIS in their transition to democracy and market economies.

It offers a unique combination of public and private sector banking expertise, and supports projects through lending, taking equity positions and providing technical co-operation. The Bank focuses particularly on the private sector and is increasing its local presence in the countries of operations.

Senior / Legal Secretary

Kiev Resident Office

The role is to provide secretarial support to lawyers and bankers located in the Kyiv Resident Office ("KRO"). This position is offered as a 2 year Fixed Term Contract

Key Responsibilities:

- Managing diaries, arranging internal and external meetings and conference calls;
- In the absence of the managers ensuring efficient control of email, screening/prioritising messages and replying on behalf of the managers to routine enquiries or forward to appropriate member or members of the team to respond/act upon;
- Drafting business correspondence for managers' signature and composing own correspondence where necessary;
- Ensuring quality management and control; proof-reading and checking documents as and when required;
- Maintaining comprehensive hard copy and online filing to ensure instant retrieval of documents;
- Liaising with outside legal counsel regarding direct selection, hours, rates and terms;
- Where competitive selection is required, liaising with outside counsel regarding the receipt of tenders, arranging competitive selection meetings with the bankers and administering the invoicing process;
- Making hotel/travel arrangements, itineraries as required;
- Handling expense claims relating to travel, hospitality, following up on reimbursement and monitoring corporate card bills;
- Ad-hoc secretarial/administrative duties in support of the KRO as and when required.

Essential Skills, Experience and Qualifications

- At least four years secretarial and administrative experience;
- Fluent English, Ukrainian and Russian both written and spoken, 55 wpm typing;
- University Degree;
- Computer literate: Windows 7; Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint;
- Good organisational skills and ability to work on own initiative;
- Excellent communications skills, including pleasant and efficient telephone manner;
- Attention to detail, eye for accuracy and ability to work to deadlines essential
- Although not essential, it would be desirable for the incumbent to have a background in legal work.

Competencies and Personal Attributes

- Ability to cope well under pressure and a capacity for hard work;
- High degree of ethics and personal integrity;
- Reliable, flexible and willing to work overtime as and when required;
- Excellent interpersonal manner, including tact and diplomacy;
- Ability to build effective working relationships with clients and colleagues in a multicultural environment.

This is a full time position and will be subject to the successful completion of a probation period and the receipt of satisfactory references. If interested, please send your cover letter and CV (in English) to lytvyna@ebrd.com subject Senior / Legal Secretary. The deadline for applications is January 20, 2013. The successful candidate is expected to start as soon as possible.

Place your vacancy in the paper's Employment section and get your vacancy duplicated at www.kyivpost.com For **500 UAH** for a week



United States Agency for International Development, Regional Mission for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova (USAID)

POSITION TITLE:

Roving Secretary for USAID/Ukraine

Position type: FSNPSC – 40 hours per week.
Grade level: FSN-6 (The incumbent will be hired at the Development Level, FSN-5 until all mandatory USAID training is completed and the full performance level of the position is reached).

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Roving Secretary's position is located in the Executive Office. The position's principal functions include a variety of clerical duties, which include but not limited to: back up for E2 Arranger and Secretaries/Administrative Assistants in different offices when these individuals are absent; performing clerical duties in C&R and HR sections; drafting short letters in Ukrainian and Russian; screening office incoming calls; receiving visitors; maintaining adequate office supplies; and maintaining office filing system.

A. ADMINISTRATIVE — 50%

Making travel arrangements; drafting and sending out cables; tracking meeting/work schedules; requesting supplies; preparing work orders; procurement requests; vital records filing; creating or editing typewritten and spreadsheets; writing short letters in Ukrainian, Russian, or English; prepare travel vouchers; provide logistic support for TDY staff; mail distribution; prepare VAT for office directors/deputy directors; upload documents to Assist.

B. E2 ARRANGER — 40%

Prepares Regional and International Travel Authorizations in E2. Advises U.S. citizen personnel and Locally Employed Staff of their entitlements in a wide variety of travel situations. Gives advice to Travel Agent regarding U.S. Government Policy and Regulations in all kinds of specific and complicated travel situations. Organizes and establishes files for the Travel Authorizations, Travel Requests, etc. Insures that all of these are properly maintained and readily available.

C. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT OF TRAININGS — 10%

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: January 2, 2013 at 6:00 PM Kyiv time
Interested applicants should e-mail a current résumé and letter of interest in English to the USAID Human Resources Unit at kyivvacancies@usaid.gov
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Mission to Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova is an equal opportunity employer.

Note: Only those applications that are received in the Human Resources Unit before the closing date will be eligible for consideration. Applications and letters that are inadequate or incomplete will not be considered. Only those applicants who are selected for interviews will be contacted.

Initial screening will be based on the curriculum vitae or résumé and cover letter. Best qualified applicants who meet minimum requirements will be invited for an interview.

QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS

- Education:** Completion of secondary school is required. Some college study is highly desirable.
- Prior work experience:** Two to three years of progressively responsible clerical, secretarial and administrative experience.
- Post Entry Training:** None.
- Language proficiency:** Level III English ability is required. Fluency in Ukrainian and Russian.
- Knowledge:** A good knowledge of the nature and goals of the Mission activity required. A good knowledge of the host-country economic, political, social, and cultural characteristics.

A good knowledge of host-country development prospects, potential, priorities, and resources in the field to which assigned. A general knowledge of USAID programming methods and procedures is necessary, particularly in the area of documents.

- Skills and abilities:** Good computer skills, secretarial skills, basic statistical skills, ability to receive visitors and to respond to diversified telephone inquiries. Must be highly organized.

POSITION ELEMENTS

- Supervision Received:** Plans and carries out assignments under the direction of the Executive Office
- Available Guidelines:** AID Handbooks, Foreign Affairs Manuals, Standardized Regulations, USAID/Kyiv procedures and Mission Orders.
- Exercise of Judgment:** To select appropriate data for analysis and interpretation, to anticipate the needs of the program, and make appropriate contacts to fulfill requirements of the position.
- Authority to make Commitments:** None.
- Supervision Exercised:** None.
- Nature, Level and Purpose of Contacts:** To contact high level diplomatic and Ukrainian Government officials; local vendors and other Donor Agencies and USAID employees at all levels.
- Time Required to Perform Full Range of Duties after Entry into the Position:** One year.



United States Agency for International Development, Regional Mission for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova (USAID)

Project Management Specialist – Elections and Political Processes DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Project Management Specialist is a key member of the Office of Democracy and Governance (ODG) Team, providing leadership in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of ODG's political processes and elections portfolio. The Specialist serves as COR/AOR or Alternate COR/AOR for several complex activities implemented primarily by US non-governmental organizations, requiring a high level of technical and professional knowledge. The Specialist leads the conceptualization, planning, managing, budgeting, and evaluation of the political process and elections program, to include developing concepts and ideas which, after Mission review, may become activities of the ODG portfolio.

Working with USAID implementing partners, beneficiaries, stakeholders, and other Mission offices, the incumbent guides the design, monitoring, approval, reporting, and evaluation of all project activities within his/her designated program area. The incumbent has direct, substantive contacts with high level host country government officials, party leaders, and NGO representatives, and negotiates selected democracy initiatives with them. The Project Management Specialist will also work with other donors active in political process and elections, coordinating USAID assistance to complement other donor initiatives as appropriate.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Education:** The Ukrainian equivalent of a Master's Degree in a related field is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** Seven years minimum experience in areas directly related to development of democratization and specifically in election-related activities is needed. Experience in coordinating entities representing various (preferably opposing) opinions is highly desirable. Demonstrated ability to analyze complex political and policy issues is highly desirable. Previous work experience with international donors is an asset.
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent) in English, and native facility in Ukrainian and Russian is required.

The full version of this Announcement is accessible at <http://ukraine.usaid.gov/emp.shtml>
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: January 4, 2012 at 6:00 PM Kyiv time, by e-mail attachment only to KyivVacancies@usaid.gov



CHEMONICS INTERNATIONAL seeks ENERGY EFFICIENCY EXPERTS

CHEMONICS INTERNATIONAL, an employee-owned and ISO 9001:2008 certified international development consulting company based in Washington, D.C., seeks energy efficiency experts for an anticipated multi-year United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project in Ukraine.

Based in Kyiv, the project will aim to reduce energy dependence through energy efficiency activities at the residential and municipal levels, promote transparency and source diversification, and encourage energy policy reform. Proposed activities will support a lower emissions development pathway for Ukraine.

We are seeking: energy institutional capacity building specialists, energy efficiency specialists, renewable energy investment specialists, and energy policy specialists with the following qualifications:

- Five years of demonstrated experience in the areas of district heating, energy efficiency, and policy reform;
- A degree in engineering or relevant field;
- Experience working with USAID or other international donors preferred;
- Fluency in both English and Ukrainian.

Please submit your CV and cover letter to: ukrainenergy@chemonics.com by Friday, January 11, 2013.

Early applications are encouraged. Only successful candidates will be contacted. We welcome you to learn more about CHEMONICS International at www.chemonics.com

THEY CHOSE THE KYIV POST!

WINNER 20 POKIB В УКРАЇНІ

Pechersk School International

DANONE

McDonald's

Citi 200 YEARS

KOCMO

RAMADA eincore

Coca-Cola

NIKO

Arzinger

ERNST & YOUNG Quality In Everything We Do

SCA clo Life

SIEMENS

SOFIYSKIY FITNESS CENTER

CIKLUM

Tetra Pak

airarabia.com

Horizon Capital

Regus Work your way

MINISTERIUM

LONDONSKAJA HOTEL

Opera Hotel KYIV/UKRAINE LEADING HOTELS

ESPOHEUKRAINE

TNKBP

BRITISH EMBASSY, KYIV: DEPUTY HEAD OF COMMERCIAL SECTION

British Embassy Kyiv

The British Embassy is seeking to recruit a locally-engaged Deputy Head of Commercial Section. The position is full time permanent. The successful candidate must be able to start work not later than **Monday 4 February 2013**.

The successful applicant will supervise and manage the day to day operation of the Commercial Section in the delivery of the full range of UK Trade and Investment services and support, in line with UKTI's "Four Pathways", and ensuring that qualitative and quantitative targets are met; to provide effective and efficient resources allocation and management (staff, financial resources and time) and to proactively seek out opportunities in Ukraine for UK companies.

The main duties are:

- resource management and strategic planning for the Commercial Section of the British Embassy;
- management and coordination of the provision of full range of services and support to UK companies, including chargeable Overseas Market Introduction Services;
- develop and maintain a wide network strategic business and governmental contacts both in UK and Ukraine; develop local and sector specific knowledge in Energy, Agriculture, Financial and Professional services;
- lead on and conduct high profile Commercial Section events (e.g. Ministerial visits and high profile sector events);
- lead, develop and manage projects supporting British business interests in Ukraine; representational duties and overseas visits.

The successful applicant will have excellent interpersonal and communication skills with a strong customer focus; organisational, analytical and time management skills; good understanding of Ukrainian business, economic, social and cultural environment, as well as good understanding of Ukrainian public administration; fluent English, Ukrainian and Russian; good IT skills; be able to travel when required.

Further details of duties and responsibilities, as well as the application form, are available from <http://ukinukraine.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/our-embassy-in-ukraine/working-for-us/>. This should be completed in English and submitted to vacancy.kyiv@fco.gov.uk. The deadline for applications is **Sunday 13 January 2013**.



Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!
Thanks for being with us in 2012.

Wishing you all the best and we look forward to serving you in 2013.
 Faithfully yours, The Kyiv Post

KyivPost
INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST

SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

Copies weekly	12 months/ 1 issue	6 months/ 1 issue
1	676 / 13.00	416 / 16.00
25	4,056 / 3.12	2,495 / 3.84
50	4,498 / 1.73	2,769 / 2.13
100	5,200 / 1.00	3,120 / 1.20

Stand rent (12 months) - Hr 440

* - all prices are in hryvnias including VAT

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KYIV POST:
 Feel free to contact us:
 (+380 44) 591-3344,
 mail to subscribe@kyivpost.com or order at kyivpost.com

Classifieds

REAL ESTATE / SERVICE

Highest standard 121 sq.m., near **MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL**, quiet parking/garden yard, fireplace, jacuzzi, internet, cable/sat. TV, security. **Long-term rent - \$4000, Sale - \$490 000**
 +38 067 464 9104

Beautiful apartment for rent in center of Kiev (near metro "Palats Ukraina"), 4th floor of modern building with parking, 120 m², spacious living room, bedroom, cabinet (can be second bedroom), 2 toilettes, 2 balconies, fully furnished, \$2000. Owner speaks English, German: +380932015989.

CLEVER SOLUTION company formation tax planning accounting, payroll and HR services +38 044 360 86 65 e-mail: clever.solution@inbox.ru

LEGAL SERVICES
 • Legal support for foreign businesses
 • Legal support in real estate acquisition
 • Establishing new legal entities
 • Contract support services
 +38-066-439-37-97
khomenko.plc@gmail.com

Private notary Valigura Anna
NOTARIAL SERVICES
 Assistance in translating documents
 10 Prozna Str, Suite 60, Kiev, Ukraine
 tel.: +38 (044) 278-44-77, (096) 264-51-11

MARRIAGE AGENCY
WWW.UKRAINE4DATE.COM
WE CAN HELP YOU TO MEET YOUR LOVE
 (044) 528-75-76,
 (067) 408-20-20

Elite marriage agency
EVE
 Serious and genuine ladies are looking for love. 700 ladies profiles, each who we know individually. All photos are made in our studio. Office in center. Apartments for rent, interpreting, guides. Up to 50 photos of each lady. Individual approach.
www.visioneve.org
 Lesi Ukrainki 15 (appointments made by phone)
 + 38 067 865 77 57;
 599 07 09 (direct land line office)

BEST BARGAIN!
 Advertising in the Classifieds section
+380 44 591 77 88
 e-mail: grysiuk@kyivpost.com

Place your **TEXT** for **92 UAH**

ACCOUNTANCY
 Taxation
 Company formation
 +380-44-237-72-76
www.accountants.com.ua



Help needed urgently!
 12-year old Slavik Yavorskiy from Kyiv suffers from acute lymphoblastic leukemia and urgently needs 4-5 courses of chemotherapy that costs Hr 80,000 and donors with 2+ blood type.
 Parents are seeking any help possible and can be reached at 0982324287 (Inna)

THE BEST RELAXATION!
 Lady salon relax massage.
 Open 24 hours in city center Kyiv.
 (067) 318-18-38, lady-massage.com.ua

1 MONTH FREE



24 CHANNELS IN ENGLISH THE BEST INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL CHANNELS AVAILABLE

In order to take part in the special offer "1 month for free" one needs from 01.12.12 to 31.12.12:

- Purchase and activate Xtra TV card (only if one is not a subscriber of Xtra TV, all existing subscribers are also eligible to take part in the special offer);
- Choose and order a package or packages to best suit your preferences and inform Xtra TV Contact Center about your choice and intention to participate in the special offer;
- Put on personal account amount sufficient for watching of selected package (packages) during 6 calendar months.

All subscribers who meet the above conditions will get from January 1 to 31 January 2013 ONE MONTH FREE access to selected package (s) as a gift! The special offer operates during the mentioned term within the territory of Ukraine.



More details on the special offer:

759 from cellphone* or (044) 591-18-11

Calls to this land-line number will be charged according to the tariffs of your cellular carrier.

www.xtra.tv

*The following information only applies to 759 short number in compliance with the rules of Ukrainian GSM operators: Calls to 759 number from mobile numbers of Ukrainian operators are charged as follows: UAH 0,00 per-minute, UAH 2,00 connection fee. Prices quoted VAT - included, additional surcharge of 7,5% Pension Fund applies. The service is available to all adult subscribers of Ukrainian GSM operators. Information support at the short number is provided by Istil Telecom LLC, 01023 Kyiv, Shota Rustaveli Str. 19. For inquiries concerning the use of 759 number, please call: (044) 591 -19 -13, Mon - Fri from 9:00 till 18:00.