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THE RAZUMKOV CENTRE NEWSLETTER

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ALL TALK ABOUT RUSSIA'S PEACEFULNESS OBVIOUSLY MEANS NOTHING

During the “direct line” President of Russia Vladimir Putin assured that Russia has no enemies. At the same time, the Russian leader avoided a clear definition of allies of his country. At one point, he stated, “Our only allies are the army and the navy”. Thus, the president of Russia showed that his military strategy is at least 100–200 years behind.

In today's world, it is impossible to build a country's national security without allies. For example, the national security strategy of the United States, whose defence capability cannot even be compared to the Russian, states that it is impossible to ensure national security on its own. The key to national security lies precisely in the search of allies and development of international solidarity. Therefore, Putin's counting on the army and the navy is, putting it mildly, non-strategic view.

We also should not be tempted by Putin's statement that “Russia has no enemies”. For then he added that he also “does not recommend anyone to consider Russia his enemy” — this is a kind of a threat. On one hand, the Russian president assured

that his country is not trying to build an empire, as some assume, and is not going to fight anyone. However, on the other hand, he informed that the army would be rearmed, and by 2020, 70% of the weapons of the Russian army will be updated.

I would call it deception. Analysing Putin's statements over the last year, there are many cases when he openly lied. The most blatant of them is the annexation of Crimea — at first, it was denied,



*Co-director of Foreign Relations and
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Oleksiy MELNYK*

then recognised, and eventually was presented as something heroic. If a person lied once, you cannot trust him any more. Thus, all the talk about Russia's peacefulness obviously means nothing.

When there is a lie in everyday life, it is not that bad. However, when the leader of the nuclear weapon state is lying, this cannot but worry the international community, especially the neighbours of this state.

However, in Putin's statements, there were not only lies but also truth. The intentions to arm the Russian army are obviously true. It is unknown whether the process of rearmament reaches the level of 70%. Renowned Russian experts Aleksandr Goltz and Pavel Felgenhauer believe it will not. However, Russia will continue to spend money on military build-up anyway.

RUSSIAN S-300S IN IRAN ARE RATHER A DESTABILISING FACTOR THAN A HINDERING ONE



Russian military experts — not to mention foreign ones — are critical of Russia's decision to supply S-300 missiles to Iran — as another foolish step and attempt to annoy the United States.

The President of Russia Vladimir Putin did not forget to mention in his “direct line” with Russians that S-300 systems are only defence weapons. However, this is only half-truth — after getting air-defence systems, Iran can feel safe from possible air strikes.

This poses a threat that the country's policy will become more aggressive, especially towards Israel. Moreover, Russian S-300s can encourage Iran to give up obligations to suspend nuclear arms build-up, which the U.S. and the EU are seeking.

Thus, Russian S-300s in Iran are rather a destabilising factor than a hindering one, as Putin is trying to show.

I do not think that the Russian president wants to create another hot spot in the world and open a new front in the confrontation with the West but he wants to become part of the problems in the Middle East, and, thus, part of their solution. Thus, Russia wants to impose its services as a mediator in resolving international conflicts.

This position is very favourable to Russia, and Putin uses it not only in the Middle East but also in other international arenas. However, none of the conflict where Russia was or considered to be part of the problem has been completely resolved. Recent examples include Transnistria, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, and, of course, Donbas.

Thus, Russia is creating situations by which it makes foreign partners make some concessions, and negotiate. However, the problem persists, and mostly even gets worse.

Full [text](#)

*Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes
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WE ARE STILL ON THE VERGE OF CHANGE

The points of the speech at the round table Urgent Measures to Improve Defence Capability of Ukraine in the Conditions of the Russian Aggression..

1. The conflict cannot be resolved with military, sanction, diplomatic, information, or any other means separately. All these should be part of the general technology. If we remove any of its elements, we can forget about the desired outcome.

Exactly because of the complexity (hybridity) of the conflict, it is better to give up another false allegation that it is not on a massive scale — through various channels of influence (military, economic, informational), from the very beginning it affected the entire society.

2. Today Ukraine is confronting Russia, whose economic and military capability, we should admit, is much higher than Ukrainian (but not unlimited). To play with such enemy by the rules “army on army” means to doom oneself to failure. If seeking an adequate response, we should bear in mind why Ukraine has

partly lost territorial integrity (weak state), and why it has retained its sovereignty (the power of society), whose shoulders still bear the main burden of the war. Indeed, volunteer movement has become this power and support.

3. One of the main tasks — both today and in the future — is to form a military and technical policy and restructure the defence industry.

4. We should understand that naturally, any reform temporarily weakens the system that is being reformed, which cannot be allowed now. Therefore — to reform.



*Director of Military Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre
Mykola SUNHUROVSKYI*

PREVIOUSLY THE ARMY WAS FUNDED ON THE BASIS OF COMPLETE SAVING

Speaking of the army structure, its core should be contract soldiers. It is hard to imagine a good professional with the skills of a conscript. We will not live in the state of war forever — peace will come when Ukraine becomes a member of international security systems, and sends peacekeeping forces, which will consist of contract soldiers only.

There were also good suggestions on transferring the army's support, in particular nutrition, to an outsourcing basis but they were rejected. Anything suggested can be spoilt with corruption. All the government procurement is dumped on one company,

and due to the lack of competition, prices are increased by several times so that it is impossible to refuse. This is how the scheme works, and this must be fought.

Previously, the army was funded on the basis of complete saving when 86% of the allocated funds went to providing for the staff, and weapons were out of the question under such circumstances.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Military Programmes of the Razumkov Centre
Mykola SUNHUROVSKYI*

WITHOUT EXECUTION OF THE MINSK AGREEMENTS, A PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN DONBAS WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL

The UN peacekeepers have worked everywhere — in Europe, in Asia, in America, and in Africa, where the number of peacekeeping missions was the highest. Peacekeeping operations were rarely conducted quickly; only a few times everything lasted a year or two, and often it lasted 5 or 10 years, or even more.

Such operations are only partly successful — there is no military conflict any more but there is no actual peace either.

A mission cannot succeed if one of the parties is against it. In the first stage, the main task of peacekeepers is to fill the vacuum of trust between the parties.

To intervene too early means to endanger peacekeepers. Too late — there may be many casualties.

We are dealing with a party to the conflict that does not recognise itself as one. Separatists are not

independent — we cannot negotiate with them. They will act on the Kremlin's instructions while Moscow will cast off responsibility.

Any discussion on peacekeepers in the East should be taken sceptically since as long as Russia does not want to see Blue Helmets (non-Russian) there, any discussion makes no sense.

If all the Minsk Agreements were executed — withdrawal of foreign troops, disarmament of illegal groups, then peacekeepers could be deployed and civil administration could be restored. Without these measures, nothing makes sense.

[Full text](#)

*Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes
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Economy

UKRAINIAN ECONOMY MAY GET INTO A STATE OF PROLONGED DEPRESSION

Firstly, it should be noted that real growth should be measured from a pre-crisis level. However, if this is only a slowdown in the rate of decline, it still means being in a state of crisis. Even if there is a 1–2% growth from quarter to quarter of the previous year, this does not mean overcoming the crisis yet. Secondly, one should understand that even these figures contain certain risk. The risk that the scenario may prove worse if certain fundamental issues are not addressed, and these issues are related to military operations, the pace of socioeconomic reforms as well as the format of these reforms.

The level of GDP growth is a relative term. Even in the period of the highest growth in Ukraine, in 2010–2011, this level was lower than before the transformation period, i.e. below 1990. This is bad. However, now Ukraine has found itself at a very low level, and the question is that

we need a growth rate at 8–10% per year to be able to say that the growth has started. What is happening today is only getting into a potential long period of stagnation and depression. Such period can last for a very long time. This is also evidenced by the 1930s experience in other countries as well as the current case of Japanese economy, which for a very long time cannot reach a decent growth rate.

[Full text](#)



*Senior Research Fellow of
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Volodymyr SIDENKO*

WITHOUT RESTRUCTURING EXTERNAL DEBT, SOME UKRAINIAN COMPANIES ARE AT RISK OF A DEFAULT

After the default of Akhmetov's company Metinvest, a chain reaction may follow for other financial companies that are already in a pre-default category, according to ratings.

Mostly it concerns the fact that the declared process of external debt restructuring, which is provided by the terms of the IMF loan, is facing significant obstacles. The problem is that if new terms cannot be agreed promptly so that it is actually impossible to pay the debts, a company declares a default. Given the final result, a chain reaction is possible here. This is largely connected to the disappointment of foreign

investors with the government's policy. Under such circumstances, investment in Ukraine may be at risk.

Neither Ukraine as a state nor leading businesses are currently able to repay the borrowed billions. This is due to the loss of export potential, and we should not expect that all this can be paid otherwise than restructuring. This should already be taken as given.

[Full text](#)

*Senior Research Fellow of
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UKRAINIAN ECONOMY REQUIRES THE PRODUCTION OF GOODS WITH HIGH VALUE ADDED

The development of the Ukrainian domestic market is hampered by limitations in business, wage freeze, lack of investment, and high interest rates.

To strengthen export competitiveness, the model of Ukrainian economy should be changed. Ukrainian exports are mainly semiraw — metals, chemicals, grain, i.e. goods with low process and added value. For process industries to start operating, we need investment and significant funds, which we do not have. A 30% drop in exports is not a disaster. This proves that the current economic model has run its course completely, and the sooner we stop clinging

to it, the sooner we will start producing goods with a higher value added, and rebuild the economy and get better results.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes
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FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET TRENDS

In the next two months, the situation in the foreign exchange markets will be fairly stable. However, another escalation of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine can quickly change favourable trends of the recent weeks.

In foreign exchange markets, substantial administrative restrictions imposed by the National Bank remain. Restrictions on the sale of foreign exchange earnings and withdrawals from savings accounts put particularly strong pressure on the exchange rate. Under such circumstances, it is impossible to talk about final stabilisation of the exchange rate.

A significant positive call for foreign exchange markets will be the progress in restructuring Ukraine's external debt, which is what the Ukrainian government

is doing now. If debt restructuring is successful, we can also talk about strengthening the position of the national currency. However, again, this can happen if there is no escalation of hostilities. Peace is a necessary condition for a stable rate. In the case of conflict escalation, it is impossible to provide any rational forecast.

Furthermore, in summer, the dynamics of Ukrainian economy will be clear — whether there are any signs of recovery. If the industry starts showing improvements, it will also be one of the factors of strengthening of the hryvnia.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre Vasyl YURCHYSHYN*

THE FORECAST OF UKRAINE'S DEBT RESTRUCTURING IS WARILY POSITIVE

The Ukrainian government has intensified the process of restructuring the country's external debt. This is not an easy task, and quick results should not be expected.

It should be noted that the best argument for Ukraine's foreign creditors is the implementation of reforms and restructuring of the national economy. Indeed, for Poland, part of the external debt was written off due to active reforming of the country. International investors realised that it was better to take some of the pressure off the national economy to win their investment back later due to economic activities in a favourable environment.

What can be said about Ukraine in this case? Positive changes in the national economy still occur although not as fast as we would like. However, there is a number of indisputable conditions, meeting which would promote concessions from foreign creditors. This refers to a proper launch of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, privatisation, and even a small investment inflow to Ukraine.

Those who are familiar with the processes of external debt restructuring understand that this means very difficult and lengthy negotiations. At this stage, the forecast of Ukraine's debt restructuring is warily positive.

In particular, we should not expect part of the debt to be written off but the postponement of repayment and partial cost reduction of its service are very real.

A rational position should help Ukraine in negotiations with creditors. Our country has never declared a default although it was under very difficult economic circumstances. This indicates that Ukraine was, is, and will be seeking all possible ways to avoid declaring a default. Furthermore, international investors should take account of the extraordinary conditions in which the country has found itself — this is both external aggression and the need for accelerated European integration.

However, understanding should not be expected from Russia. A 3 billion USD debt to Russia stands apart from other liabilities. I think that by the end of the year, we will have to return 3 billion USD in any case. Of course, international investors will not be very pleased that the debt is paid to Russia and not them. However, their understanding the geopolitical situation should help us.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre Vasyl YURCHYSHYN*

RUSSIA IS AT LEAST 50 YEARS BEHIND EUROPE

The European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) published a study which says that Western Europe is half a century ahead of the Russian Federation in its economic development.

The EPRS experts state that for several centuries in a row Russia was behind Europe in terms of GDP per capita. For example, in Germany it is three times higher — 43,475 USD (2013).

In this situation, attention should be drawn to the Global Innovation Index, which is developed by the World Intellectual Property Organization, Cornell University, and the international business school INSEAD. In 2014, Russia ranked only 49th among 143 countries. For such a country, it is a fairly low score. Furthermore, in this ranking, Russia is inferior to such countries as Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Mauritius, Chile, Qatar, and Thailand, i.e. developing countries. Also, a country's spending on research and development (R&D) accordingly to GDP can be analysed. According to the World Bank (the most recent data date back only to 2012), Russia's spending on this is only 1.1% while in Germany it is 3%, in France 2.3%, and in the UK 1.7%. Another indicator is the share of the exports of hi-tech products in the entire industrial complex. When in 2011–2012, in France this indicator was 24–25%, and 15–16% in Germany, it was about 8–9% in Russia. So Russia is far behind the leading Western countries.

One of the reasons for this state of affairs is the dependence on exports of energy resources. 50% of the federal budget revenues are profits from energy sales, and about 70% are export revenues from oil, gas, and coal sales. As a result, Russians have begun to suffer from the so-called Dutch disease — when there is a great dependence of the economy and the budget on one or two kinds of raw material. At the same time, public needs for goods and services are met by imports, and its own production is poorly developed. According to the World Bank, the share of manufactured goods in Russian exports in 2013 was only 17% while in Germany it was 83%, and 77% in Poland.

Russia is not reforming its economy because the elite is focused on the distribution of earnings from energy sales. It thought that oil and gas prices will always be high so it never cared about market economy,

In the future, the situation will only get worse.

Full [text](#)

*Expert of Economic Programmes of
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Kateryna MARKEVYCH*



Energy

GAS PRODUCTION SITES AND THE GAS PRODUCTION SYSTEM SHOULD REMAIN STATE-OWNED

Recent adoption of the Law On the Natural Gas Market will allow consumers to choose their gas supplier. In some of the EU countries, it is already possible. So you can choose not only a company but also the nature of the service offered, depending on the amount of the product and when you need it. For example, you do not need gas 24/7, but only during the day, in larger quantities in winter than in summer, and when you go on holiday, you do not need it at all. Based on your personal needs, you will choose a provider that will be most flexible about all your wishes and offer the most favourable price. Suppliers also will be able to choose a range of consumers — households or industry only. However, this will only happen if the law is successfully implemented. The gas market does not exist on its own but is closely connected with the electricity market.

Reforming the Anti-Monopoly Committee of Ukraine is also an important point. This agency should ensure competition in the market. We know that all our energy markets have either an official monopoly (for example, Naftohaz) or a private monopoly de facto (for example, Rinat Akhmetov's DTEK has 70% of the country's thermal power generation). However, monopolists will not want to lose assets and income, and will seek ways to influence ministries, the president, and the prime minister so that after having created a European façade, to keep the old practice. There are masters in government agencies who by adopting by-laws can create a completely different algorithm of behaviour. That is why we need an independent regulator so that practice would comply with the law.

There definitely will be explicit and hidden resistance. Oligarchs will lose profits they considered their own although they are the means they should have shared with the public. Corrupted authorities allowed oligarchs to build empires. There used to be a tacit bargain — through corruption schemes, the authorities cover the enrichment scheme for oligarchs, and then, they help the authorities win the election.

In turn, the state monopoly in the gas market has always caused abuse. For example, the gas produced by state-owned companies was sold not at the market

price but at the social, which only covered the costs of production, and did not enable development. At first, monopoly led to stagnation, and now also to degradation of the gas production sector. This is also bad for consumers. It seems gas is cheap but there is budget deficit of Naftohaz, which the state covers from its budget. The money in the treasury are our taxes. This vicious circle is now being broken.

For the state, it is now important to keep production sites (Ukrhasvydobuvannia) and the gas pipeline system (Ukrtransnafta) state-owned. There is a lot to sell but there are strategic enterprises that should remain under state control under any circumstances. Up to 25% of shares of the company Ukrhasvydobuvannia can be sold in an IPO to get foreign investment inflow.

The concept of the change rate is complex. Even in the EU countries, five years after the adoption of the energy package, not all is well although there is quite a competitive environment. Our rate will not be high. We simply cannot go faster because the implementation of the second energy package has to be completed. It seems that it has started but many things only look good on paper. Until the law starts working, nothing will change.

The main principle of the second energy package is free access to pipelines. Any gas producer should be able to access a pipeline to sell its gas. It is the problem with selling that is holding private gas production back. By the way, this is also typical for electricity production. To sell energy, you have to connect to the network, and the monopolist does not want to connect you. He dictates terms, and the supplier has to sell gas or electricity for a song, which from now on is unacceptable.

Full [text](#)

*Freelance Energy Expert of the
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Mykhajlo HONCHAR*



THE LAW ON DEMONOPOLISATION OF THE UKRAINIAN GAS MARKET WILL FACE RESISTANCE OF OLIGARCHS

There is interest in our subsoil and the gas market, especially after the decision to switch to market rates has been adopted. We should bear in mind that our gas market and our gas pipeline system are one of a kind in the EU in terms of scale.

However, investors will not appear tomorrow. Those who already have the experience of working in Ukraine know that an adopted law in Ukraine means nothing. Investors will wait until all legal acts are adopted to make sure that the energy sector is reformed not only on paper.

There is another group of problems. It should be taken into account that the author of the third energy package — the European Commission — does not always act in the spirit of its initiatives. Recently, there have been attempts to find loopholes in their own legislation to give legal status to such Gazprom projects as the South Stream. We should see how our EU partners will act. We should not get ahead of ourselves; we should not be more royalist than the king. We should defend our interests.

[Full text](#)

*Freelance Energy Expert of the Razumkov Centre
Mykhailo HONCHAR*

REVERSE GAS FROM THE EU STATES CAN REDUCE UKRAINE'S DEPENDENCE ON SUPPLIES FROM RUSSIA



Ukraine does not stand a chance of getting gas bypassing Russia at least until 2020. Probably the only chance is if Ukraine yields a huge part of its national interests to Russia. If Ukraine sold its gas pipeline system or other key sites to Russia, it would probably suit Gazprom.

Azerbaijan supplies gas by land via Turkey to the Central and Southern European countries via the so-called Southern Corridor. It comes from Shah Deniz

field. However, according to the project, the amounts are not that large there — 15–18 billion cubic metres. They have already been taken by the EU countries. Here, I honestly do not see any opportunity for Ukraine to join this process.

The most reliable solution to Kyiv's problems is to expand gas supplies via the Slovak, Hungarian, and Polish corridors. There are improvements here. However, energy conservation and the reduction of gas consumption are also necessary.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Energy Programmes of
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Volodymyr OMELCHENKO*



EFFICIENT REGULATION OF THE ENERGY MARKET WILL HELP TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT IN ENERGY

The project of the new Energy Strategy of the country, developed by the Razumkov Centre, suggests to increase the generating capacity for renewable energy sources by 2.5 times, compared to 2012, by 2020. However, renewable and traditional energy should not be contrasted. These forms of energy should not compete but develop simultaneously, complementing one another. Above all, the state should

not choose which energy sector to develop but create an efficient system of regulation of the energy market.

Until an independent regulator is created in the market, there will be no investment not only in the renewable energy but any energy at all.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Energy Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre Volodymyr OMELCHENKO*

GAZPROM MADE CONCESSIONS TO NAFTOHAZ NOT TO LOSE THE UKRAINIAN MARKET

Ukraine relies on natural gas supply from the EU states; we need a contract with Gazprom just to be safe.

A decrease in gas supply to Ukraine from Hungary may be due by several reasons. It may be supply deficit or certain transport restrictions for the supply through Hungary.

The issue may also be due to the fact that, firstly, the National Joint-Stock Company Naftohas cannot use 100% of export capacity directly from Europe simply

for financial reasons, and, secondly, due to the lack of such needs.

The fact that Gazprom is not going to impose a fine for the shortage of gas means that the Russian company simply does not want to lose the Ukrainian market.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Energy Programmes
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Domestic Policy

LUSTRATION SHOULD BE BASED ON THE RULE OF LAW

It was the Constitutional Court and its conclusions on the Law on the Rules of Procedure of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine where the process of creeping usurpation of power by Yanukovich, replacing the Constitution and the whole chain of subsequent events, including the Maidan, had started. Therefore, lustration is also derived from these processes.

The Law On Purification of Government is both political and legal so attempts to narrow the discussion

down to a purely formal legal dimension rather than the rule of law are hardly appropriate.

[Full text](#)

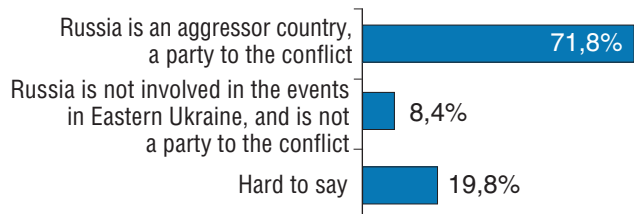
*Deputy Director, Director of Political
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Sociology

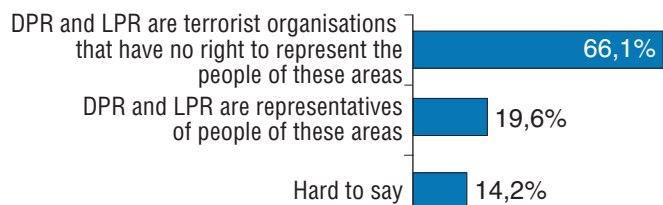
This issue of the newsletter presents some of the findings of the survey conducted by the Sociological Service of the Razumkov Centre from 6 to 12 March 2015 in all the regions of Ukraine except Crimea and the occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts.

With which opinions and assessments about the situation in Eastern Ukraine do you agree the most? % of respondents

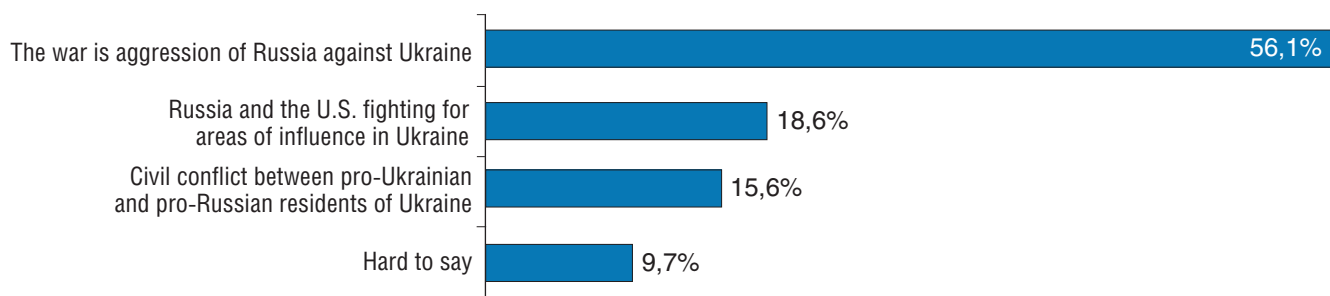


2,009 respondents aged 18 and over were interviewed. Sampling error — 2.3%. More information on the findings of the public opinion polls conducted by the Razumkov Centre is available on the Razumkov Centre website <http://www.razumkov.org.ua>.

Opinion on the DPR and LPR % of respondents



Overall assessment of the conflict in Ukraine % of respondents



The possibility of Western countries to provide lethal (deadly) weapons to Ukraine % of respondents



Next steps to resolve the conflict in Eastern Ukraine % of respondents



The Razumkov Centre News

ROUND TABLE CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES TO REFORMING THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL REFORM PLAN



On 16 April 2015, the Razumkov Centre held a round table *Conceptual Approaches to Reforming the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Context of the National Reform Plan*.

The round table was held within the project *Law Enforcement System of Ukraine: State, Problems, and Prospects for Reform*, supported by the MATRA Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The discussion was attended by representatives of legislative and executive authorities, security forces, scholars, government and independent Ukrainian experts as well as representatives of foreign embassies and international organisations.

During the round table, research findings were presented, and the following issues were discussed —

- Reform 2015: plans, initial results, and lessons
- Reform 2015: the feasibility of implementation in the current sociopolitical, legal, and socioeconomic conditions.

ATTENDING AN ANALYTICAL EXPERT ROUND TABLE “DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS FOR THE WIND ENERGY SECTOR IN UKRAINE: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS”



The project of the new Energy Strategy of the country, developed by the Razumkov Centre, suggests

to increase the generating capacity for renewable energy sources by 2.5 times, compared to 2012, by 2020.

This was stated on 6 April 2015, during the analytical expert round table *Development Prospects for the Wind Energy Sector in Ukraine: Problems and Solutions*, held in Psykheia R&D Centre, by Director of Energy Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Volodymyr Omelchenko. The expert also supported the opinion of Director of Psykheia R&D Centre Serhiy Sapehin, who was convinced that renewable and traditional energy should not be contrasted.

“These forms of energy should not compete but develop simultaneously, complementing one another,” said V. Omelchenko. According to him, above all, the state should not choose which energy sector to develop but create an efficient system of regulation of the energy market.

“Until an independent regulator is created in the market, there will be no investment not only in the renewable energy but any energy at all,” believes the expert.

To conclude, V. Omelchenko emphasised that energy efficiency should still be a priority today.

ATTENDING A ROUND TABLE “STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATURAL GAS MARKET IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION ASPIRATIONS OF UKRAINE”

On 23 April 2015, a round table *Strategy and Priorities of the Development of the Natural Gas Market in the Context of European Integration Aspirations of Ukraine* was held by the Expert Committee on the Issues of the Gas Industry and the Natural Gas Market, the Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Ukraine, and the National Joint-Stock Company Naftohas Ukrayiny, supported by Naftohasbudinformatyka Ltd and Grant Thornton Ukraine Ltd.

During the round table, Director of Energy Programmes of the Razumkov Centre participated in the discussion of the following issues — integration of the Ukrainian natural gas market and European regional markets; adoption of the new Energy Strategy of Ukraine; and improvement of mechanisms to promote our own gas production.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the National Joint-Stock Company Naftohas Ukrayiny A. Koboliev, representatives of the Presidential Administration, the Verkhovna Rada, the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry, Ukrtranshas PJSC, the National Commission for State Regulation of Energy and Public Utilities, gas traders, gas consumers, embassies, well-known national and international experts etc.

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