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THE RAZUMKOV CENTRE NEWSLETTER

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THE OPPOSITION BLOC WILL NOT HAVE A DEFINITE LEAD IN LOCAL COUNCILS IN EASTERN UKRAINE

A positive aspect is that the election was held within a more or less acceptable framework all over Ukraine, except the occupied areas, and that the number of settlements where there was no election is really small. Also, despite the ongoing vote counting, the election day itself (with few exceptions) was relatively quiet. Therefore, the election may be considered such that was held in normal conditions when people were able to make their choice.

At the moment, it is difficult to say what the final election results will be but several trends can be already noted. First of all, parties that were actively conducting their local campaigns made it into city and raion councils based on party lists. These are primarily parliamentary parties — Petro Poroshenko Bloc, Self Reliance, Freedom, and Opposition Bloc (in the regions where its popularity allowed to claim certain positions). The feature of this election campaign is that fact that together with parliamentary parties, regional political projects also achieved success.

Another trend of this election is that in most oblasts of Ukraine, the backbone of the majority will be formed involving major parliamentary players. I mean Petro Poroshenko Bloc, Fatherland, and Self Reliance. In the eastern and southern oblasts, the Opposition Bloc will have a significant presence. However, there will be no clear dominance of one political party, as it was at the 2010 election when the Party of Regions, in fact, formed the majority in most oblast and raion councils. Now this will not happen but the basis of the coalition will consist of the parliamentary parties which form the current parliamentary coalition.

Significant support of the Opposition Bloc in eastern regions is an absolutely logical phenomenon because voters who used to vote for the Party of Regions have not disappeared anywhere. However, this time, competition was higher there, and even in eastern regions, the coalition political parties got good

results. Thus, there will be no clear dominance of the Opposition Bloc.

As to the turnout level, in general, local election always gets somewhat less attention than parliamentary and presidential. Now we can talk about some factors of social nature — fairly high level of public discontent with the activities of political parties in general. Mostly people are used to the fact that the policy is determined at the central level so local government election is something that you can ignore.

Full [text](#)

*Deputy Director, Director of Political
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Yuriy YAKYMENKO*



THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE GIVES GROUNDS TO YANUKOVYCH'S ALLIES TO DEMAND THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS

The Court of Justice of the European Union declared the sanctions against former Deputy Head of Viktor Yanukovich's Presidential Administration of Ukraine Andriy Portnov illegal. The European Themis declared that imposing sanctions based only on cooperation with the former regime is unacceptable, and once again indicated that Ukraine provided no specific evidence against Portnov. Thus, the Court of Justice opened

the door to appeals against sanctions for other former Ukrainian officials as well.

This decision of the Court of Justice is completely logical. It has been a year and a half, accounts of the Ukrainian officials even were arrested in the EU, and Ukraine has provided no evidence against them. The Court of Justice cannot prosecute a person without evidence. If this continues, sanctions will soon be lifted from other officials as well. All of them will be clean according to the European law, and their arrested accounts will be unblocked.

Ukraine has provided no evidence against Portnov for several possible reasons — from low efficiency of the investigation to the interest of certain forces to ensure that this issue is not being solved. I think this is rather the inability of investigators that simply have not dealt with investigation of the activities of top officials.

Full [text](#)

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CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE AGREED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COALITION

Petro Poroshenko Bloc (PPB) promises changes in the government, and this means that the coalition begins a round of serious negotiations on staff rotations.

After the beginning of counting of the local election results, the PPB leader Yuriy Lutsenko made an emotional statement that Yatseniuk should expect a serious discussion and changes in the government. A politician of such level should not draw conclusions about staff policy based on the election results but measure the temperature of public discontent during the process. Changes in the Cabinet of Ministers is a problem that has long been discussed behind the scenes.

According to him, the need for staff changes has come long before the election but there was no political will to change the Cabinet of Ministers.

The Cabinet of Ministers is formed by the parliamentary coalition. Any abrupt changes in the government should be agreed with all the members of the coalition. The balance of power now gives no obvious advantage to PPB so, apparently, there will be a serious discussion in the Rada.

The coalition played for time in solving the problems of the Cabinet of Ministers. Let us take the situation with the Ministry of Healthcare. Kvitashvili resigned, and it has been several months, and his resignation has not been supported. The reason is the relationships within the majority. Even when a minister wants to resign, there should be negotiation. Thus, the story with changing the government will start with a public or non-public report of the prime minister and all the ministers on the work done to the coalition. Each faction that delegated a minister will ask what has been done and what is the reason of unsatisfactory performance. Only then staffing solutions will be made. One should understand that a coalition always means negotiation, compromise, and contradictions between the desirable and the possible.

[Full text](#)

Deputy Director, Director of Political and Legal Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Yuriy YAKYMENKO

DECENTRALISATION WEAKENS THE TIES OF THE REGIONS WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN KYIV

Representatives of big business are trying to influence the situation in the country in the current circumstances in different ways. Some form their own political parties, and, obviously, this is done with an eye to the future rather than the local election, held on Sunday 25 October. Other representatives of big business are seeking other methods of influence.

Among those who are active in the political sector, Rinat Akhmetov and Ihor Kolomoisky stand out above all.

If the reform to conduct decentralisation is implemented, the new situation will significantly weaken the ties of the regions with the central government in Kyiv. Since for many actors, the local election is the last

cast to express themselves, big money was spent on them. These costs are comparable with neither the role of this election nor the powers of the people who will be elected to various councils.

[Full text](#)

Leading Expert of Political and Legal Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Viktor ZAMIATIN



National Security and Defence

ELECTIONS IN THE SO-CALLED DPR–LPR MAY BECOME THE BASIS FOR RUSSIAN INVASION

It should be emphasised that duly provided American weapons and equipment would significantly reduce the losses of the Ukrainian armed forces.

However, the threat of the great Russian invasion should not be ruled out. This can happen after the pseudo-election which the militants of the so-called DPR and LPR still intend to hold in the occupied Donbas. In this case, Russian troops can resort to invasion upon the request of the “legally elected authorities of the people’s republics”.

[Full text](#)

Director of Military Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Mykola SUNHUROVSKYI



RUSSIA WAGING HYBRID WARFARE WAS A SURPRISE TO MANY

Many soldiers out of those 7,000 of the 17,000 Ukrainian troops in Crimea who have stayed there after the occupation were local. This is especially true for junior staff, i.e. soldiers and sergeants. Back then, they faced a very difficult choice since they did not have the sense of Ukraine being their homeland. They had an island identity, Crimea was homeland to them. Not all of them may be called traitors although officially they are.

What we call hybrid warfare was a surprise to many. Back then, commanders faced a rather difficult choice — to use weapons under the Charter, or not use them. Communication with the central command was blocked by the Russians, the position of our central government was unclear, and there was powerful pressure of our Western partners for our troops to withhold fire, and not to start a war.

Now there is an urgent need in sending Ukrainian military for training abroad. Since independence, the number of sergeants trained in Western countries is approximately 5,000. This is in addition to those who

participated in regular international trainings in Ukraine or some short-term courses. On one hand, 5,000 is a lot but it is 5,000 in 23 years. Now there are some units, for example, in General Staff where almost all the officers who serve have been trained abroad. Not only do they speak foreign languages but are also fully integrated into the Western military community. So there are some units, especially for international cooperation that 100% consist of officers trained abroad. However, unfortunately, the highest military command is still tied to old traditions — Russian and Soviet.

[Full text](#)

Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Oleksiy MELNYK



INTERNAL PROBLEMS DO NOT ALLOW UKRAINE'S ECONOMY TO ENTER FOREIGN MARKETS

Several months ago, Russia announced that in case of unsatisfactory decision on the issue of introducing the free trade zone between Ukraine and the EU fully for them, they will consider the means of trade response to this situation. So now Russia resorts to measures in response which broadly come to the fact that Ukraine will be transferred to the normal trade regime with third countries. This means that we are actually deprived of benefits we enjoyed as a member of the free trade zone within the CIS. Therefore, it will be more difficult for us to export to Russia.

However, the situation is that currently, in fact, we have already lost 80% of our export to Russia, compared to its peak value in 2011. By the way, the exports have started to fall already during Yanukovich's regime. However, their pace has become more dramatic precisely due to the Russian sanctions, which have begun even before the EU Association Agreement was signed. So today we already will not feel such strong influence because the bulk has already been lost. Besides, I do not believe that trade will stop altogether if sanctions are imposed because there are Ukrainian goods which will be problematic to replace for Russia.

Speaking of losses, it will be approximately half of the current volumes (approximately \$4.5 billion), that is \$2 billion. I do not think that these losses are disastrous. At least, this will not significantly deepen the problems with which we are dealing anyway due to the slow pace of reforms and a very slow process of creating opportunities to expand the export potential in the non-traditional areas for us.



The most significant problems that we will feel will be due to the loss of the mechanical engineering market. However, here one should understand that it is lost mostly because this sector is technologically outdated. For Ukrainian mechanical engineering products, there are simply no markets outside Russia. This industry has long been in need of appropriate reforms. So the problem arose not because of the Russian sanctions. They have only aggravated the problem of noncompetitiveness, which instead is the result of us having a very poor innovation policy.

At the same time, we have lost one third of exports to the EU. By the way, this is subject to the fact that we have been given a special preferential treatment (the EU has introduced unilateral dilution without waiting for the free trade zone to fully come into force). This is a rather illustrative proof that the problem is not the sanctions as much as domestic economic problems that do not allow us to expand positions in foreign markets.

Of course, now certain measures are being taken. For example, the implemented measures on deregulation that significantly speed up the opportunity to register a new business. However, the problem is that we have a rather difficult political situation both because of Russian aggression and significant internal contradictions worsening the investment climate. Also, it should be considered that the issues of fighting corruption are not being solved properly, the judicial reform is delayed, it is unknown when decentralisation will be implemented, and there are also contradictions in the reform of tax legislation. Against the backdrop of this set of problems, the fight against inflation and debt issues may cause significant prolonged recession. Under these conditions, it is difficult to expect a quick way out from the abyss we got into.

[Full text](#)

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IF UKRAINE RETURNS THE DEBT TO RUSSIA, THIS MAY CAUSE CONFUSION AMONG THE REST OF THE CREDITORS

On 29 October, the period that Kyiv allocated to Russia for joining the agreement of creditors on restructuring the external debt of Ukraine has elapsed. Moscow is threatening with court for non-payment of the 3 billion debt in December.

For Ukraine it would be psychologically easier to pay Russia as soon as possible, and turn and forget this page in the relations with the Kremlin. "The experience of recent years shows that the smallest problems with Russia immediately grow into big contradictions and conflicts. However, debt repayment can cause confusion

of Ukraine's other creditors. Furthermore, public opinion in Ukraine does not approve of debt service to "the aggressor country that has caused so much harm to Ukraine."

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes
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Vasyl YURCHYSHYN*



TAX CUTS WILL REQUIRE OVERCOMING THE STATE BUDGET DEFICIT

Currently bills are being discussed, in which different arguments and ideologies concerning the tax reform are used. However, in fact, we are talking only about taxes, rates, and simplification but completely ignoring the question how this will affect the economy in general, the social programmes, and the state expenditure.

One should understand that reducing the revenue part automatically requires to reduce expenditure, or determine the exact sources to fund the deficit, which will increase.

When we are talking about tax cuts, when we are talking about reducing the tax burden, we should clearly and reasonably state what will be the tax cuts, where they will apply, what we will cut in terms of expenditure, and how we will fund the increased deficit.

The IMF does not directly object to the tax reform. The IMF does not object to tax cuts. The IMF is against us increasing the budget imbalance.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes of
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THE EBRD MEMBERSHIP WILL FACILITATE ACCESS TO THE EUROPEAN MARKETS FOR CHINA

China has long been trying to become a member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Head of International Department of the People's Bank of China Zhang Tao announced this intention back in 2011. Today, the idea of China's membership in the EBRD is mentioned more and more often.

From an active exporter, China is turning into a major exporter of capital. Tianxia is actively promoting

the idea of the new Silk Road. This is a transcontinental project into which tens of billions of dollars will be invested in different countries.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes of
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DECENTRALISATION WILL NOT HAVE AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT DUE TO FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE REGIONS

It will take some time until new structures are established, according to the idea of decentralisation. Local governments will have to solve current issues as a priority — the heating season, social aspects, subsidies, etc. Furthermore, there is a problem in terms of regions — their development programmes are necessary. Given the staff shortage, it may be problematic in the regions.

Also, one should remember that issues related to decentralisation do not contradict with the fact

that bodies of the financial department, and local government need to constantly cooperate with the centre. Whether it can be done is rather a political than an economic question. The state of local finance will largely depend on this.

[Full text](#)

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Energy

LONG-TERM WORLD ENERGY OUTLOOK: KEY TRENDS AND INDICATORS

The development of global energy during 2015-2035 will be primarily focus on meeting the needs of the growing number of population, the need to fight climate change, and a "global hunt" for energy. The key driver to counter climate change will be energy decarbonisation, which will become one of the key factors in creating trends of the world energy development.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) declared the entering of "the golden age of gas" as the cleanest of fossil fuels which causes minimal emissions of CO₂ and meets the goals of decarbonisation. However, against the backdrop of relatively high prices for hydrocarbons, attention to new ways of using coal and nuclear fuel to generate electricity and heat will grow. Interfuel competition will increase. Production of unconventional hydrocarbons will increase, which will increase competition in the markets of conventional fuels. In particular, one should highlight the role of renewable energy sources (RES), whose production cost is rapidly approaching the cost of conventional energy, and by 2020, renewable energy will become more competitive (without any state support) in many developed countries.

Electricity, due to its versatility and portability, will be in high demand. Revolutionary technological innovations are expected in transport. Ahead, in the coming decades, is the period of transformation of

transport based on the internal combustion engine into a non-emissive environmentally friendly electric transport. Furthermore, we should expect a "coup" in world energy related to the innovation leap (introducing nucleosynthesis in a solid — cold fusion; the use of hydrogen, helium etc.).

Increasing competition in the world energy markets opens more opportunities for choosing the sources and ways of supply of primary energy resources, optimisation of the energy mix, and, in the long term, reducing CO₂ emissions. To achieve economic competitiveness, Ukraine should not only consider world energy trends in its development plans but also be proactive.

The recovery and growth of global economy after the global financial crisis of 2008-2009, combined with population growth (especially in India and China), and the rising standard of living will lead to increasing demand for energy in the long term. According to the forecasts, given a substantial increase in energy efficiency, world energy demand in 2035, compared to 2013, will increase by 37%, or will increase by an average of 1.4% per year. Compared to the current 2.4% increase (during the period of 2000-2013), the forecasted pace of world energy consumption will be somewhat slower, which is caused by the end of the stage of rapid growth in energy demand in Asian countries.

[Full text](#)



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TRENDS AND PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AREAS OF DOMESTIC GAS PRODUCTION

Availability of domestic fuel and energy resources is one of the conditions of energy security of a country, which is closely connected with national interest and public welfare. Analysis of the current state of energy production capabilities aims to identify the threats to economic development of the country and define mechanisms for the implementation of domestic potential of energy production. In the conditions of

an extremely acute shortage of foreign currency resources, this should become one of the priorities of state economic policy.

In the energy balance of the national economy of Ukraine, natural gas ranks first by the level of consumption, much of which is imported. Ukraine's dependence on the import of this resource makes the

country pragmatically choose the forms and methods of adjusting the policy in the area of development of domestic gas production. Let us not that the conditions of natural gas production in Ukraine has become much more complicated over the last two years. Among the reasons are the situation in the eastern oblasts of Ukraine (part of the production capacity is in the occupied area of Donetsk Oblast), Ukraine losing control over the state joint-stock company Chornomornaftohaz and the Black Sea shelf where two new mobile offshore units were operating; gradual depletion of the highest quality reserves, and an increasing share of the reserves of lower quality, with lower production potential and higher cost. The increase in rent payment rates for production in July 2014 also did substantial damage to the gas production sector. This has already led to a decrease in production performance, deterioration of the investment climate, and, as a result, losses in the state budget and gold reserves since a shortfall in the resource from Ukrainian fields should be compensated with imported fuel.

It is predicted that only in 2015, production losses from an increasing tax burden on the sector will be approximately 1 billion m³, which in monetary terms will be more than \$240 million. A decrease in investment activities of gas production companies

in 2015 and such international giants and Shell and Chevron ceasing the business is a response to unsystematic and economically unjustified state policy in the strategically important sector. As a result of poor tax policy, obstacles to the development of domestic production emerged, which creates an additional threat for the country's energy security, promotes increasing dependence on external supply, and leads not only to economic but also political dependence. Development of the gas production industry in the nearest future should become the driving force of Ukraine's energy self-sufficiency, and its economic and social well-being. That is why it is necessary to understand how to increase the level of energy security by increasing natural gas production within the country.

Ukraine own enough proved reserves and inferred resources of natural gas in order to reach full self-sufficiency in this kind of fuel in the next 10-15 years but to do this, the principle of the tax policy should be changed from fiscal to stimulating, which should be based not on the subjective temporary approach but on the scientifically accurate methodology developed taking into account international best practices.

[Full text](#)

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IMPORTS OF RUSSIAN GAS TO THE EU COUNTRIES INCREASED IN TERMS OF RELATIVE INDICATORS

Even if the second branch of the North Stream is built, it will be problematic to sell gas for Russia because Germany does not need it in such large volumes, and the infrastructure of the European gas pipeline interconnectors is not developed enough yet to receive the volume 2-3 times greater through the Northern Stream. It is known that the less hydrocarbon is transported, the slower a gas pipeline pays off.

As to the Turkish Stream, it is worth noting that Russia is trying to implement it instead of the Southern Stream, which is already almost buried. Russia has already spent \$6 billion on piping and building compressor stations of the Southern Stream in their country. Not to have the money wasted, Russia is trying to cover it with the Turkish Stream.

However, one should bear in mind that the design capacity of the gas pipeline system Yamal–Europe passing through Belarus and Russia itself, bypassing Ukraine, is 32.9 billion cubic metres per year. There are also sites of the gas pipeline system in Ukraine, which are indirectly owned by Gazprom in a joint

project with Naftohaz, which can provide transit of up to 26.7 billion cubic metres of natural gas to the south.

Currently Russia has rather difficult relations with Turkey. Russian gas can be supplied to this country either through Ukraine or the gas pipeline the Blue Stream. This gas pipeline goes from Russia to Turkey under the Black Sea. In 2013, it was used quite actively — with the capacity of 16 billion cubic metres per year, it transported 13-14 billion.

As to the position of Gazprom in the European market, when the total value of imports of the Russian fuel to the EU countries decreased, the relative value increased. In the overall balance of gas imports to Europe, Russia accounts to 75%.

[Full text](#)

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Foreign Policy

DESPITE THE CHANGE OF POWER, POLAND WILL REMAIN THE MAIN ALLY OF UKRAINE IN THE EU

After the new parliament is elected, Poland will actually change the government, the prime minister, and the foreign policy direction. The Eurosceptics who won have got monopoly on power for the first time in a long time. However, despite the fatigue from Ukraine and rather severe historic contradictions, Poland will remain our key ally.

After the election, the left become more right, and the right more left. What the Law and Justice declared before the election will not fully implemented. Since there is the reality and the common position of the EU. That is why not so pro-Ukrainian statements of the party will be adjusted. Support for our country will remain — none of the political parties of Poland is against it. Of course, the historic aspects will remain but they will not be a priority.

Poland will hardly be able to significantly help Ukraine in the fight against Russia. Indeed, Jaroslaw Kaczynski will not forget the death of his brother in the

plane crash near Smolensk in April 2010. However, the economic, political, and military capabilities of Warsaw are very limited.

When Polish Euroscepticism can cause a lot of trouble to the European Union. The relations of Warsaw with the EU will be largely defined by the decision of the Union. If they are not very convincing, as they are now concerning refugees or the support of Ukraine, Euroscepticism may increase.

[Full text](#)

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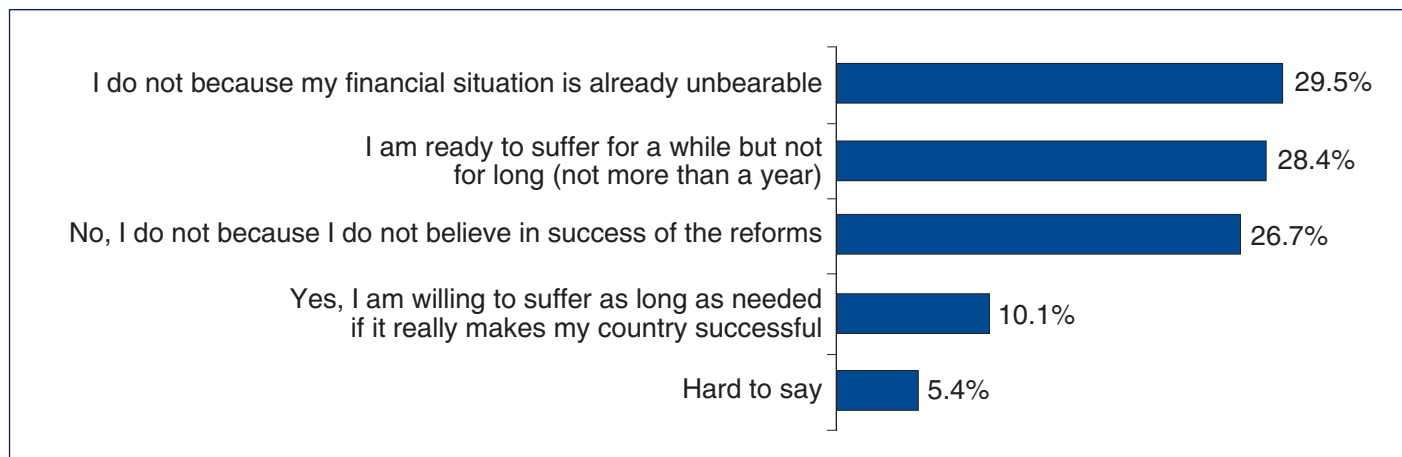


The study was conducted by the Sociological Service of the Razumkov Centre from 12 to 19 September 2015. 2,008 respondents aged over 18 in all the regions of Ukraine, except Crimea and the occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, were interviewed. Sampling error (without design effect) is less than 2.3% with a probability of 0.95.

The survey was conducted as part of the monitoring of the public attitude towards reforms in Ukraine. The study was conducted with the support of the Government of Sweden.

More information on findings of the public opinion polls conducted by the Razumkov Centre is available on the Razumkov Centre website <http://www.razumkov.org.ua>.

Are you willing to suffer some financial difficulties for the sake of reforms % of respondents



Public rating of the impact of reforms and the government's actions in various areas on personal situation. % of respondents

Areas of reform	Effect			
	Positive	Negative	None	No answer
Renewal of the government and lustration	13.7	20.4	65.3	0.6
Judicial reform	7.7	14.2	77.3	0.8
Decentralisation and local government reform	13.0	17.4	69.3	0.3
Public administration reform	8.4	15.5	75.6	0.4
Deregulation and business development	6.1	15.5	77.9	0.6
Reform of the law enforcement system	24.4	14.2	60.9	0.4
National security and defence reform	20.7	19.8	59	0.5
Healthcare reform	9.5	34.7	55.3	0.4
Tax reform	6.2	21.0	71.6	1.2
Energy independence programme and energy sector reform	9.1	43.1	47.3	0.5
Promoting Ukraine in the world	27.0	11.7	60.6	0.7
Agricultural reform	7.4	17.6	74.4	0.6
Education reform	9.7	17.0	72.6	0.7
Reform of public property management	5.3	12.1	82.1	0.5
Financial sector reform	6.8	24.0	68.8	0.4

ATTENDING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE NEW SECURITY CHALLENGES FOR EUROPE

Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Oleksiy Melnyk attended the international conference New Security Challenges for Europe, which was held in Munich on 30 October 2015. The conference was held by Hanns Seidel Foundation and Wildfried Martens Centre For European Studies.



The conference was attended by representatives of government, political, business, and academic circles of Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine as well as NATO and EU officials.

The main topic of the discussion was the Ukrainian–Russian and Syrian crises, and their impact on the European security. It should be noted that despite the current Europe's high attention to the issue of refugees from the Middle East, the issue of the Ukrainian–Russian conflict has not lost its relevance.

Recognising a close connection between both conflicts and an important role of the Russian factor, most participants of the discussion emphasised that Russia's participation in both conflicts has a destabilising effect, and the positions of the official Moscow on their resolution are mostly of destructive nature.

In the discussions on the development prospects of the situation in Ukraine, the importance of two key factors was stressed — 1 — the West maintaining solidarity, and 2 — the need in radical reforms in Ukraine, especially in the fight against corruption. It is important to note that Western partners often openly doubt the intentions of the president and the government of Ukraine to act in this direction.

Among other aspects important for Ukraine, the positions of Western experts on the policy of sanctions against Russia should also be noted. There were mixed assessments of their effectiveness and the need to revise them. In general, it is expected that the possibility of their revision in the nearest future is rather high, mostly due to economic considerations, but their full lifting is unlikely.

THE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA IN UKRAINE

On 4 November 2014, Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia in Ukraine Stole Zmejkoski visited the Razumkov Centre. During the visit, Ambassador met with Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes Oleksiy Melnyk, who presented activities of the Razumkov Centre to the guest. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the possible areas of cooperation between the Razumkov Centre and the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in order to promote the development of relations between the two countries and establish contacts at the level of representatives of the civil society.

THE VISIT OF THE DELEGATION FROM THE EMBASSY OF CHINA

The Razumkov Centre hosted a meeting between experts of the Centre and the delegation from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ukraine, headed by Counsellor of the Embassy Zheng Wei. The Razumkov Centre was represented by Director of Economic Programmes V. Yurchyshyn and Leading Expert of Political and Legal Programmes V. Zamiatin.

In particular, the prospects of stabilisation of the economic situation in Ukraine, further developments in the areas of domestic policy, and the fight against corruption were discussed. The parties shared views on the possibilities of expanding investment cooperation, and development of the international situation.

THE MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION FROM GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE

On 5 November 2015, Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes O. Melnyk attended a meeting with the delegation from the Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, headed by Ms Priscilla Hayner.

One of the important issues discussed at the meeting was the issue of restoring justice in transition. In her presentation, Mr Hayner shared her experience of using legal and non-legal approaches to solving the issues of punishment and pardon, or amnesty of the parties to the conflict, restoring truth, protecting the rights of the victims of violence etc. Particular attention was paid both to the importance of this aspect in the set of measures for peaceful settlement and the need to consider the risks that may lead to undesirable consequences in case of neglecting basic international standards.

For reference. The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue is a non-governmental organisation whose mission is to facilitate prevention, combating, and resolving armed conflicts through negotiation and social dialogue. The Centre actively participated in the conclusion of 29 peaceful agreements in different regions of the world.

P. Hayner was one of the founders of the International Center for Transitional Justice in 2001, a consultant to the UN, an advisor to Kofi Annan on human rights in the negotiations in Kenya.

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