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THE RAZUMKOV CENTRE NEWSLETTER

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VISA-FREE REGIME FOR UKRAINE

The optimism of the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko in relation to granting Ukraine visa-free regime with the European Union has its grounds. But the length of this process is difficult to determine due to a number of factors that Ukraine has no influence on.

First of all, it is about developing mechanism of suspending visa-free regime. The concerns that the European Union has are quite clear. The migration crisis is really very complicated; the EU wants to secure itself. At the same time, among the total number of immigrants, who in the past year in various ways entered the EU, the share of Ukrainians, according to some estimates, is less than 1%. In other words, Ukraine makes no difference here. Also, please note that Ukrainian citizens will not form unruly ethnic communities in the EU that could cause criminal problems.

The issue of a visa-free regime should not come to the forefront in the European integration process of Ukraine. Most important is the fate of the Association Agreement with the EU – the key document in Ukraine's relations with the EU, since no visa-free regime will determine the socio-economic, political, and other development of Ukraine in the EU.

Full [text](#)

*Mykhailo PASHKOV,
Co-Director for Foreign Policy and
International Security Programmes*



PACE RESOLUTION SHOULD FRAME UKRAINE'S FOREIGN POLICY

On 12 October PACE called on Russia to withdraw its forces from the territory of Ukraine and denounced human rights violations in the Crimea.

PACE Resolution should be the cornerstone of Ukraine's foreign policy and employed as much as possible in various ways. For instance, 13th paragraph is particularly important when it comes to developing a future roadmap, which says bluntly, that it is impossible to hold elections in the Donbas in current conditions.

At the same time Ukraine finds it difficult to defend its position due to the fact that Europe conducts

“dual” policy towards Russia. Western policy is twofold, involving, so to say, both “accounting garb” and “military chevron”. If we look at the EU summit decision in March, there are five points that depict Western policy towards Russia. The main ones being – preserving internal cohesion of the EU and trade relations with Russia. Therefore, this factor should also be considered.

Full [text](#)

*Mykhailo PASHKOV,
Co-Director for Foreign Policy and
International Security Programmes*

Economy

HOW TO ATTRACT INVESTMENTS IN UKRAINE

The National Bank of Ukraine predicts 3-4% GDP growth in 2017 and up to 4-5% in 2019-2020.

Based on current affairs and trends, this estimate seems quite reasonable. I cannot call it too optimistic, or pessimistic. But, if you ask whether this growth is enough for Ukraine then the answer is “no.”

Unfortunately, 3-4% – a level that will provide us with only faith floundering. This is the survival rate of the population and business.

And the government has to, despite some unfavourable conditions and the overall situation, set ambitious targets, while pointing to the tools and criteria for interim changes that will help reach the level of, at least, 5-7% over the next three years.

What should be done? Unfortunately, the situation here is simple and complicated at the same time.

Of course, the most important thing is to give business incentives and assurances that it will be able to grow and to send a clear signal to investors.

A policy aimed at ensuring that investors feel more confident will completely override the negative impact of any other government actions. If the policy of attracting investment will turn from words to deeds, we can expect a GDP growth to reach 5-7%.

Full [text](#)

*Vasyl YURCHYSHYN,
Director for Economic Programmes*



RAISING MINIMUM SALARY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A RISE IN INFLATION

Yesterday Prime Minister V. Hroysman announced a sharp increase in the minimum wage from UAH 1600 end of this year to UAH 3200 in the beginning of 2017.

For now these statements do not look very realistic. No one mentioned what incentives will enable the economic growth and increase taxes to fund the minimum social standards. Since this has not been done, there is a risk that a nominal increase in the minimum wage could trigger inflation.

Raising nominal minimum social standards should reflect the real economy, and not happen only due to emission. Although the emission also has a right to exist, we must clearly understand that the real welfare will not double with the salary but increase, at best, only by few percent. Increasing minimum salary is ideologically necessary because during the two crisis years (in 2014 and 2015) real wages fell by about 20%.

Full [text](#)

Vasyl YURCHYSHYN, Director for Economic Programmes

IMF PUBLISHED A NEW FORECAST FOR UKRAINE'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

IMF published a new economic survey "World Economic Outlook" presenting its vision of global economic development. Next year, Ukraine's GDP, according to international analysts, will grow by 2.5% with inflation rate reaching 11%. Unemployment rate will be around 8.7%. The IMF also hopes that by 2021 the average annual growth of the economy will be about 4% and inflation – 5%.

However, 2% or 3% is a very low indicator for Ukrainian economy. Following the 15% collapse in the last two years, it should be growing by 3-5% the next 3-5 years. That is the only way we can reach the

level that is more or less acceptable for sustainable development.

As for inflation, it is primarily related to increasing utility and housing tariffs by more than half.

Probably, this will not happen in 2017, so the next year this 11% will look as totally normal. Thus, a conservative scenario that the IMF, the Ministry of Economy and NBU now follow, has laid down quiet achievable performance indicators.

Full [text](#)

Vasyl YURCHYSHYN, Director for Economic Programmes

National Security and Defence

PUTIN SHOULD BE A PARTY TO THE CONFLICT IN THE MINSK PROCESS

The next round of peace talks on Donbas was narrowed down to talking for the sake of talking. Leaders of France and Germany failed to reconcile the positions of Ukraine and Russia. The Normandy four summit was held on 19 October in Berlin gave no result. Following four-hour talks no joint documents were signed or joint briefings held.

This once again proves that the parties (primarily Kyiv and Moscow) have opposing views on key issues. The only achievement was the agreement to develop a roadmap, which will consist of a clear sequence of steps to implement the Minsk agreements.

One must understand that after the elections in separate regions of Donetsk and Luhansk regions the process of gaining control over the border would only start, and no guarantees it would end successfully. On the contrary, it is more likely that everything will be done to hinder Ukraine gaining this control. It is in Russia's interest to hold elections to legalise "DPR"

and "LPR" with no transfer of control over the border to Ukraine.

It is obvious that our country's proposals will not be accepted by Russia. At best, if the document is agreed upon, it will be empty and impractical, or, at worst, Ukraine would have to give up its positions.

The first step to be done – to change the seats at the negotiating table. Putin should be a party to the conflict. If Putin continues acting as a peacemaker and mediator, I see no prospects for resolving the conflict.

Full [text](#)

*Oleksiy MELNYK,
Co-Director for Foreign Policy and
International Security Programmes*



THE ATTEMPTS OF THE WEST NOT TO PROVOKE RUSSIA ONLY ENCOURAGED PUTIN TO GREATER AGGRESSION

The problem with Western politicians is that in their strategy towards Russia a key slogan was not to provoke it, which, in fact, has only encouraged Putin to further aggression. This is what we saw in Crimea, where Ukraine was held back by all possible means

not to provoke war. Then, in Donbas. And now in Syria, where Putin has crossed all possible red lines.

In conflict with Russia, Ukraine primarily needs the supply of high-precision weapons from the West. The defence weapons would save the lives of Ukrainian

soldiers, and secondly, reduce civilian casualties and destruction of infrastructure, mainly because Ukraine is using its stocks of Soviet weapons and munitions that do not provide the required accuracy.

Another problem is that Ukrainian documents describe the conflict as a counter-terrorist operation, which, in fact, is a typical low intensity war, creates many problems for Ukraine. It is important to understand that the declaration of a state of war is not a declaration of war against Russia. It would simply

formalise the situation that is now in the country. Such actions are entirely in line with Ukraine's internal documents – the Constitution of Ukraine, the law of Ukraine on defence, and international agreements, including the UN General Assembly Resolution, which defines the aggression.

Full [text](#)

*Oleksiy MELNYK,
Co-Director for Foreign Policy and
International Security Programmes*

WHY MOSCOW HAS ONCE AGAIN RAISED ITS MILITARY ALERT LEVEL

The sudden decision to test its army combat readiness is a method that Russia uses to circumvent the requirements for the planned military exercises.

On 18 October, the Central Military District of Russia has launched military exercises involving more than 20,000 military personnel. The alarm level was also raised for units located in the Western and Southern Siberia.

It is worth noting that, according to the official version, this was not a planned training, but sudden test.

It is important to understand the difference between training and testing. Holding such large-scale

exercises usually falls under certain international obligations, including the Vienna Document, whereby the party that conducts exercises should advance warning if the number of soldiers involved exceeds a certain threshold.

Sudden decision to test its combat readiness is a Russian know-how, which the Kremlin uses to circumvent international obligations.

Full [text](#)

*Oleksiy MELNYK,
Co-Director for Foreign Policy and
International Security Programmes*

POROSHENKO AND PUTIN UNDERSTOOD THE BERLIN SUMMIT DIFFERENTLY

If to pay attention to comments by Poroshenko, Putin and other participants of Berlin summit, differences in their assessment of the event results are quite evident.

This again suggests that, in fact, no agreement has been reached. They talk about the same things, but in their own interpretation. And that is what they will encounter at a technical level drafting a roadmap.

In this sense, Debaltsevo is one of the key points, because we know what happened there during the

signing of Minsk-2. Russia had blatantly violated previous agreements. Under the basic agreement, the insurgents would have retreated far enough from the current front line. It is necessary to enforce that the opposite side obeys previous agreements, then we will not have to deal with such a microscopic separation of forces.

Full [text](#)

*Oleksiy MELNYK,
Co-Director for Foreign Policy and International Security Programmes*

Domestic policy

UKRAINIAN SOCIETY HAS NO CONFIDENCE IN POLITICAL PARTIES

According to the "Rating" Group, 42% of respondents wish to re-elect national deputies (18% definitely support this idea; 24% rather support it). This 42% of citizens favouring early elections, however, is certainly not a record figure. During the last years, this number had been even higher, exceeding, in some surveys, 50%. So, today, we actually see a drop in the number of people who would like to hold early parliamentary elections.

The problem is different. People primarily want to have early elections to express their negative attitude toward political parties in Parliament. If you look at the results of this poll as well as others, you will see that



the support level for political parties does not exceed 10%. Besides, a significant share of respondents, sometimes even more than half, choose the answer “I will not vote”, or “I have no political sympathy”. In fact, we are dealing with a crisis of confidence in the leading political parties. And this is what the data of sociological surveys tells us.

Will this crisis of confidence continue, and what will it depend on? There is a common factor – socio-economic wellbeing of citizens. There is a direct link between the socio-economic level of people, their purchasing power, wage levels, tariffs and the public attitude to political parties, especially to those that belong to the government.

There is another factor to be considered. Today, a campaign pushing for declaring the income of

people’s deputies, governmental representatives and other officials does nothing but irritate the society. This is also reflected in the negative attitude toward the political class as such. If we look at the ratings, we will see that both the authorities and opposition parties look the same. This is another proof that we are dealing with a distrust of all political forces and parties, and not with some differences of opinion and electoral preferences.

Full [text](#)

*Yuriy YAKYMENKO,
Deputy Director General –
Director for Legal and
Political Programmes*



PUBLIC OPINION NO LONGER EXISTS IN CRIMEA

New sociological data from studies conducted by Russian companies regularly pervades the information space of the annexed Crimea. The Ukrainian centres studying public opinion, like most international scientists refused conducting interviews on the peninsula.

It should be stressed that public opinion as such does not exist there. The media only portrays the opinions of separate people that convey the official position. Underground opinion exists, but that is, as they say in the Soviet Union, kitchen talk or subconscious mind.

The thought in society is also missing in neighbouring Russia. There, as in the Crimea, under the control of Russian authorities, people say what they are told to.

As an example, the survey on Russia’s role in the Syrian conflict and the need for military intervention to resolve it. Two weeks before the start of Russia’s activity in Syria polls showed that the population was mostly against military action. However, following the official announcements by the Russian government, the public opinion changed.

Full [text](#)

*Deputy Director for Sociological Service,
Mykhailo MISHCHENKO*



Energy

STORAGE OF GAS BY EUROPEAN COMPANIES IN UKRAINE GIVES “GREEN LIGHT” TO A NEW GAS HUB

French company ENGIE signed a framework agreement with “Ukrtransgaz” to store gas in Ukraine. In the long term, the arrival of the French company gives the “green light” to transforming underground storage facilities in the western region of the country into a European gas hub that will positively affect energy security of Ukraine and Europe. In the short-term this means – restoration of confidence of European suppliers in Ukraine as a transit country and a country with gas storage capacity. At the same time, entering European gas markets will ensure profitability of transit pipelines even with minimal use of Russian gas after 2019.

However, in order to create the Eastern European gas hub Ukraine should take certain steps: to create predictable and stable legal environment for market participants, who will store gas in underground gas storage facilities; to conduct a feasibility study for the hub project and to create software to ensure

its operation; to create exchange for the hub functioning; to develop action plan on connecting it with the existing European system of hubs, etc.

If ENGIE begins to store gas in Ukraine – it will improve the quality and level of relations between the EU and Ukraine in the gas sector, and will help ensure the implementation of European energy legislation and involve European gas traders to work with Ukrainian UGS.

Full [text](#)

*Expert of Economic Programmes,
Kateryna MARKEVYCH*



HOW DANGEROUS IS THE “TURKISH STREAM” FOR UKRAINE

Turkey and Russia recently announced the signing of an intergovernmental agreement on the project pipeline “Turkish Stream”.

Talks of the “Turkish Stream” (as of the “South Stream”) go on for over ten years and still yield no result. If we consider the matter in connection with the construction of the “Nord Stream-2” pipeline, then the Baltic pipeline represents a great threat to Ukrainian transit capacity as well as to gas supplies to Ukraine. The “Turkish Stream”, however, Russia needs only as a backup pipeline for pushing European partners to accelerate the implementation of the “Nord Stream-2”.

Turkey in turn holds a very simple position: the more corridors, including oil, pass through its territory the better, because it increases the country’s geopolitical importance. Thus Turkey can receive energy from different sources and diversify these supplies. This reduces price and creates an opportunity for Ankara to put pressure on partners in terms of price.

Returning to the “Turkish Stream”, one should pay attention to one thing: how the pipeline will be designed. Representatives of Russia once declared that Russia is planning to build a branch “Krasnodar region – Crimea”. This actually means that they want to implement this project in the territorial waters of Ukraine, Crimea and territorial waters near it, according to international law, is our territory. And if

Russians develop the pipeline in the territorial waters of Ukraine, it immediately raises the question: Who would invest in a risky project that passes through the territory that no one has recognized? Which foreign banks will agree to this?

Most likely, the Turkish side will not invest in this pipeline. If anyone does, this only will be the Gazprom. But Gazprom undergoes a complicated political situation and financial problems. The company has huge risks and debts and it is highly unlikely that it will find extra 8.10 billion euros. Practically no one gives credit to Gazprom.

The “Turkish stream” in Russia may face the same situation as the “Blue Stream” – a gas pipeline, which has been built between Turkey and Russia. Moscow took over all the expenses for its construction, and when the pipeline was ready, Turkey suddenly revised the price. Gazprom had no choice but to agree to its terms, because it was necessary to somehow recoup the pipeline.

Full [text](#)

Director for Energy Programmes,
Volodymyr OMELCHENKO



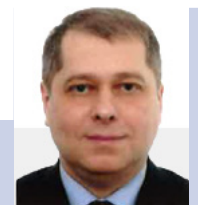
UKRAINE WILL SURVIVE THE WINTER WITH NO ENERGY ISSUES

If power plants are provided with coal, plus the provision of gas from underground storage facilities, plus our own national gas production, and we expect it to gradually increase, then we can overcome the energy burden in winter without any unforeseen accidents. There may be some local disconnections, but it would be no state of emergency, when everything collapses, as it happened in several US states a few years ago.

Especially since today Russia can no longer exert same influence on Ukraine as it was two or three years ago, primarily because of the possibility of reverse gas supplies from Europe.

Full [text](#)

Leading Expert of
Energy Programmes,
Victor LOGATSKIY



Social Policy

UKRAINIAN GENDER LAW GENERALLY MEETS EUROPEAN STANDARDS

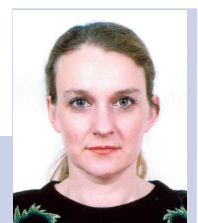
Ukrainian legislation can generally be characterized as gender balanced – it correlates quite well with European practice, and corresponds to European traditions and standards. However, the problems are still there. Sometimes there is the lack of understanding of strategic advantages of gender policy, sometimes these norms are only declarative. In promoting gender policy, NGOs do much more than government agencies.

The survey conducted by the Razumkov Centre showed that while gender equality in Ukraine is enshrined in law, in practice, it is not always

respected. Ukrainians say that gender inequality prevails, but it is of a background, non-discriminatory character. Therefore, the situation in this sphere is more or less balanced.

Full [text](#)

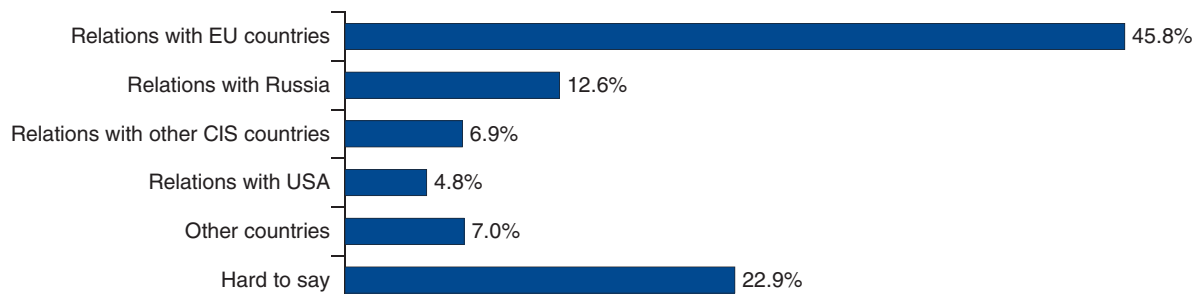
Leading expert for Social and
Gender Programmes,
Olga PYSHCHULINA



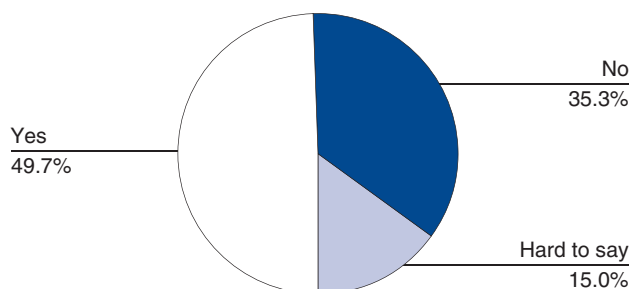
The study was conducted by the Sociological Service of the Razumkov Centre on 9-14 September 2016. 2,018 of respondents were surveyed in all regions of Ukraine except the Crimea and the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Theoretical sampling error does not exceed 2.3%.

For more details on the results of opinion polls conducted by the Razumkov Centre, go to our website at <http://www.razumkov.org.ua>.

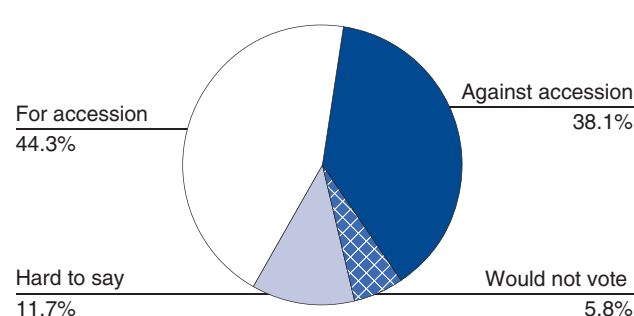
Which foreign policy direction should be a priority for Ukraine? % of respondents



Do you think Ukraine should join the European Union? % of respondents



If a referendum on Ukraine's accession to NATO were held next week, how would you vote? % of respondents



Today, different proposals are being expressed for developments in Ukraine. Do you support the following proposal? % of respondents



The Razumkov Centre's News

ENGLISH VERSION OF THE STUDY “BUILDING A COMMON IDENTITY OF UKRAINIAN CITIZENS IN THE NEW ENVIRONMENT: SPECIAL ASPECTS, PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES”

The results of the Project “Building a Common Identity of Ukrainian citizens in the New Environment: Special Aspects, Prospects and Challenges” have been released in the new English edition of the “National Security & Defence” journal (No. 3-4, 2016).

The Project was conducted with support of the Matra European Partnership Programme and Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Ukraine.

The journal presents the results of a nationwide survey (10,000 respondents) of identity of Ukrainian citizens, including the dynamics of changes in 2006-2016; the identity of citizens of different regions and areas; different linguistic and ethnic groups and citizens involved in the armed resistance against Russian aggression. The journal also contains speeches of the participants of the Expert Discussion “Building a Common Identity of Ukrainian citizens: Prospects and Challenges” (Kiev, 7 June 2016).

We hope that everyone interested in the process of Ukrainian identity formation and Ukrainian political nation will find this study useful.

Online version of journal is available at: http://razumkov.org.ua/eng/files/category_journal/NSD_161-162_eng.pdf

ANALYTICAL REPORT “GLOBAL ENERGY TRENDS THROUGH THE PRISM OF NATIONAL INTERESTS OF UKRAINE”

The analytical report “Global energy trends through the prism of national interests of Ukraine”, prepared within the project “Global energy trends through the prism of national interests of Ukraine” has been released. The project was conducted by the Razumkov Centre in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Ukraine and Belarus and supported by the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Fuel and Energy Complex, Nuclear Policy and Nuclear Safety.

The analytical report provides analysis of current trends in global energy development, including the indicators of global energy industry by sector (natural gas, oil, coal and electricity) as well as defines Ukraine's place in them. Due to the growing importance of climate change, the role of energy industry in environment pollution and the main tasks of climate change policy have been outlined.

The report also defines main priorities and directions of leading players, the US and EU, in global energy market as well as medium-term tasks for Ukraine's energy sector due to its efforts to integrate into the European energy space.

We hope that this publication will be useful for anyone interested in energy relations, as well as in global and national energy policy-making.

Online version of analytical report is available at:

http://razumkov.org.ua/ukr/upload/2016_ENERGY-S.pdf

THE BROCHURE “GENDER EQUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT: FROM A VIEWPOINT OF UKRAINE’S EUROPEAN STRATEGY”

It is the first time that the Razumkov Centre has addressed the issue of gender equality. The project involves the analysis of socio-demographic situation in Ukraine, the state of gender equality in the EU and Ukraine, legal and institutional mechanisms to ensure gender equality and gender-related challenges facing European countries and Ukraine.

The study analyses the impact of institutional reforms, economic strategies aimed at achieving greater equality between men and women, and different aspects of gender discrimination.

The main conclusion of the study is quite obvious – neglecting gender issues results in significant social losses, negatively affects the welfare of people and reduces opportunities for sustainable growth and management efficiency.

The political realm has acquired a sufficient amount of tools to help achieve gender equality and effective development. However, for these measures to be really effective, the politicians have to take into account current realities, to consult all related parties on the key issues.

Eliminating gender discrimination in many cases depends on the understanding of issues, relevant gender education, knowledge of international standards and gender equality success stories. Only patient consecutive steps in this direction will make our joint efforts visible and lead to stability, equality and justice.

Online version of the brochure (in Ukrainian) is available at:

[*Брошура “Гендерна рівність і розвиток: погляд у контексті європейської стратегії України”*](#)

AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN TO UKRAINE VISITED THE RAZUMKOV CENTRE

On 4 November 2016, the Razumkov Centre's experts met the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Sweden Mr Martin Hagström. During the meeting, the Ambassador received comprehensive information about the Razumkov Centre, its activities and international cooperation, in particular, and with the Embassy of Sweden and the International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The Razumkov Centre's News



Director General Anatoly Rachok informed the Ambassador on major achievements of the Razumkov Centre during the agreement period with SIDA, such as strengthening of its institutional capacity, expansion of international cooperation and new research directions.

The parties discussed prospects for further cooperation between the Razumkov Centre, the Embassy of Sweden in Ukraine and Swedish analytical institutions.

EXPERT DISCUSSION ON THE ROADMAP FOR IMPLEMENTING THE MINSK AGREEMENTS

On 31 October 2016, the Razumkov Centre with the support of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Ukraine held an Expert Discussion on "The Roadmap for Implementing the Minsk Agreements: Opportunities and Threats for Ukraine".



The discussion was attended by representatives of 14 governmental and independent research institutions – experts in geopolitics, security, political, legal, social, economic and humanitarian issues.

The participants analysed challenges and threats for Ukraine in developing a "roadmap" for implementation of the Minsk agreements; outlined the "red lines" – the limits of compromise; discussed security, political, legal, social, economic and humanitarian aspects of the "roadmap" and approaches to its development.

EXPERT DISCUSSION "GLOBAL ENERGY TRENDS THROUGH THE PRISM OF NATIONAL INTERESTS OF UKRAINE"

On 20 October 2016, the Razumkov Centre and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Office in Ukraine with the support of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Fuel and Energy Complex, Nuclear Policy and Nuclear Safety held an Expert Discussion: "Global Energy Trends through the Prism of National Interests of Ukraine". (<http://razumkov.org.ua/upload/2016/ENERGY-S.pdf>)

The Razumkov Centre presented a brochure "[*Global Energy Trends through the Prism of National Interests of Ukraine*](#)".

The following issues were discussed:

- Global energy trends and Ukraine's place on the global energy map;
- Priority issues in combating climate change;
- Overview of the main tasks of the US and EU energy policies;
- Ukraine's strategic objectives in the energy sector.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE: "GENDER EQUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT: FROM A VIEWPOINT OF UKRAINE'S EUROPEAN STRATEGY"

On 18 October 2016, the Razumkov Centre held a press conference: "Gender Equality and Development: From a Viewpoint of Ukraine's European strategy".

Participants:

- Yuri Yakymenko, Director for Political and Legal Programmes, the Razumkov Centre;
- Olga Pyschulina, Leading Expert of Social and Gender Programmes, the Razumkov Centre;
- Tamara Martsenyuk, Assistant Professor to Sociology Department, NU "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy";
- Olexander Koval, Chief Researcher, Social Security Department, NISS.

A comparative study "Gender Equality and Development: From a Viewpoint of Ukraine's European strategy" aims to compare gender landscape of Ukraine and the EU, define their common and distinctive features, elements of structural mechanisms.

The research covers a wide range of issues. In particular, the report focuses on the role of social (norms and laws) and economic (markets and resource allocation) institutions, the institution of family and the impact of international indexes on the situation of women in the world. In addition, the publication highlights gender aspects of political life and gender-based violence in a conflict. The attention is also given to international norms and standards aimed at ensuring gender equality.

For details: http://razumkov.org.ua/ukr/news.php?news_id=787

The Razumkov Centre's News

THE RAZUMKOV CENTRE PRESENTED IDENTITY PROJECT RESULTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE NETHERLANDS

On 17 October 2016, the Razumkov Centre presented to the Embassy of the Netherlands in Ukraine the results of the first stage of the Project "Building a Common Identity of Ukrainian Citizens in the New Environment: Special Aspects, Prospects and Challenges".

Deputy General Director, Yuri Yakymenko and Director for Sociological Service, Andriy Bychenko, informed the Dutch experts and diplomats about the current state and major changes in various aspects of identity of Ukrainian citizens 2006-2016, the identity of various social groups, and public perception of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The presentation raised such issues as the formation of a common national identity, Ukrainian political nation, the consolidation of society around the European choice of Ukraine.

The Project is supported by the Matra Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND VISITED THE RAZUMKOV CENTRE

On 25 October 2016, the Razumkov Centre held a meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Mrs. Judith Gough. During the meeting, Mrs. Gough received comprehensive information about the Centre, its activities and international cooperation, including with the British research institutions.



The Razumkov Centre's experts presented their vision of social and political processes in Ukraine, fight against corruption, reforms progress and

results, situation in the energy sector, the conflict with Russia, as well as perspectives of Ukraine's cooperation with its Western partners. The meeting saw the two sides ready to continue and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation.

PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "THE OIL AND GAS COMPLEX ON THE PATH OF REFORM, MODERNIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT"

At the International Conference "The Oil and Gas Complex on the Path of Reform, Modernization and Development" held on 26 October 2016, the Director for Energy Programmes of the Razumkov Centre V. Omelchenko presented a Report on "The Urgency of the Adoption of a New Energy Strategy of Ukraine." In his report, he stressed that the acting Energy Strategy of Ukraine till 2030 adopted by the Cabinet of Ukraine on 24 July 2013, does not meet today's challenges, as its predictive index and key points do not reflect the realities of the present stage of domestic energy development.

V. Omelchenko also noted that the Razumkov Centre together with the National Institute for Strategic Studies prepared a new draft Energy Strategy of Ukraine till 2035. The new Strategy primarily aims at solving energy security problems in circumstances of external aggression, including the use of armed forces and non-military actions, proposes transformational mechanisms till 2020, and outlines strategic development guidelines till 2035.

The speaker asserted that the main objective for energy development till 2020 is the energy security and transition to energy-efficient consumption with introduction of innovative technologies. Strategic vision: Ukraine's energy sector is the key to economic sovereignty, the element of good governance, reliable basis for sustainable development of competitive economy and an integral part of the European energy space. The new draft Energy Strategy of Ukraine took into account a long-term strategic goal for Ukraine – reaching the level of energy self-sufficiency before 2035.

RAZUMKOV CENTRE

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