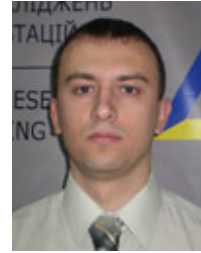


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### **Pre-election agreements**

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- On June 19, 2007, Prime Minister V. Yanukovich addressed the Verkhovna Rada with a statement, where he thanked MPs for “efficient cooperation”. This statement may have several interpretations. On the one hand, it could be regarded as a message that the government had admitted the work of the Parliament of the fifth convocation completed. On the other, that under changed political circumstances the Government and the Parliament should cooperate differently. The next day decision of the Political Council of the Party of Regions to initiate preparations for the pre-term parliamentary elections on September 30 supports the first interpretation. The decision demonstrates the victory of the moderate wing of the Party of Regions standing for a compromise with the President, and, thus, makes elections more probable.

On June 22, the Central Electoral Commission considered the division of responsibilities for the region supervision among its members. However, it looks strange that the nullification of electoral lists, much more important for re-elections issue, was not put on the agenda. This fact may testify that the division of the domains of influence, which may significantly impact the electoral result, is pivotal for the destiny of re-elections than the legal problem resolution.

The delay with consideration of the electoral list nullification could be explained by the intent to provide the President with the opportunity to issue a fourth Act on the dissolution of the Verkhovna Rada on the basis it could not undertake its proceedings in 30 days after the leave of more than a third deputies from the Parliament (this happened on June 15). If it was so, the suggestion to announce a break in the work of the Parliament and to open a new session on September 4 could be treated as a preventive move.

Lev Hnatenko, the Deputy Head of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, states that there exists an agreement between the leadership of the Party and Head of the Central Electoral Commission Volodymyr Shapoval to consider the nullification of electoral lists on June 27. The next sitting of the Verkhovna Rada was scheduled for the same day as well, likely, to make possible a momentous reaction on the feasible “wrong” (to the opinion of O.Moroz, the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, and a certain part of coalition’s deputies) decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

The Party of Regions is represented by 5 members in the Central Electoral Commission; the opposition – by 7, together – 12 out of 15 members. And it is clear that the backstage agreement of the Prime Minister with the President, or, in other words, the leadership of the Party of Regions with the leadership of “Our Ukraine” Block is the undercurrent enabling to bypass legal casuses, the main of which is nullification of electoral lists, and make re-elections an inescapable fact. If such agreement is not achieved, the web of political intrigues, provocations and juridical casuistry may last indefinitely long.