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**1. Putin vows to further ties with Ukraine
People's Daily Online, 10 October 2007**

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday pledged to further develop relations with Ukraine, saying he will discuss with his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yushchenko strategic bilateral relations between the neighboring states.

"I would like to repeat that Russia is interested in the closest relations in all spheres, especially economy, with the fraternal Ukraine," Itar-Tass news agency quoted him as saying at a meeting with visiting Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

"President Yushchenko and I agreed that we will hold a meeting of the (Putin-Yushchenko) Commission, co-chaired by us, and discuss strategic relations between Russia and Ukraine when Ukraine forms a new government," Putin said.

Yanukovich said relations between Kiev and Moscow were stable despite the current political situation in Ukraine.

"We think that we will retain stable relations with Russia. We will ensure the stability of authorities and our relations with the strategic partner, Russia, and the fraternal people," he said.

Yushchenko has asked parties in the new parliament, including the Regions Party, led by his rival Yanukovich, to offer proposals for a coalition government and a new prime minister, following last week's parliamentary election in which his orange ally parties won a slim majority.

Source: Xinhua

2. Tymoshenko offers posts to Regions Party Ukrainian Journal, 8 October 2007

KIEV, Oct. 8 – Yulia Tymoshenko, Ukraine’s likely next prime minister, on Monday agreed to give opposition parties posts in the government and Parliament as part of a stability pact with the Regions Party.

Tymoshenko’s consent to give the posts meets demands from President Viktor Yushchenko, who said the pact had been needed to ensure long-term political stability in Ukraine.

“The opposition will be given maximum powers to supervise over actions of the authorities,” Tymoshenko said after a meeting between Yushchenko and leaders of four other parties elected to Parliament on Sept. 30.

The decision formally opens way for Tymoshenko to form the pro-Western coalition government with Yushchenko’s Our Ukraine-People’s Self-defense. Yushchenko said Saturday Tymoshenko’s nomination would come after the deal with the Regions Party.

The opposition will be given posts of a deputy prime minister, deputy ministers, the head of the Accounting Chamber, which tracks the government’s finances, and top positions in a number of parliamentary committees, Tymoshenko said.

The opposition will also be given a chance to nominate at least representative to supervisory councils of the National Bank of Ukraine, major state-owned companies and banks.

The developments come a week after the snap parliamentary election at which two pro-Western parties have defeated pro-Russian groups and are now moving towards forming the coalition government.

The Tymoshenko group and Our Ukraine-People’s Self-defense will control 228 seats in the 450-seat Parliament, while the Regions Party will control 175 seats, its pro-Moscow ally Communist Party will control 27 seats.

The bloc led by former Parliamentary Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn, a centrist group, will control 20 seats, according to the Central Election Commission, which plans to officially announce election results by Oct. 15.

“We have 228 seats and there is nothing that would prevent us from” creating the coalition after official election results are announced, Tymoshenko said. “There will be no obstacles.”

Meanwhile, the coalition may expand to include the group led by Lytvyn, Yuriy Lutsenko, the leader of Our Ukraine-People’s Self-defense, said Monday. “Now, the ball is with Lytvyn. All questions should be forwarded to him,” Lutsenko said.

Yushchenko, who chaired the meeting between political groups on Monday, said he was happy with the progress that has been made for the political compromise.

“The needed consultations should take five days,” Yushchenko said.

Yushchenko also outlined future legislation that must be approved in order to speed up economic reforms, streamline the governance and to fight corruption.

Yushchenko also insisted the controversial law on the Cabinet of Ministers, which cut presidential powers in favor of the Cabinet and that had been approved earlier this year, must be cancelled.

He also said the president must be given full control over armed forces and law enforcement agencies, to prevent any stand-offs in the future like happened in May during the political crisis.. (tl/ez)

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.ukrainianjournal.com/index.php?w=article&id=5358>

3. Ukraine Averts Russian Gas Crisis **By Vidya Ram** **Market Scan/Forbes, 9 October 2007**

LONDON - Ukraine has avoided a repeat of the crisis of 2006, during which Russia cut its gas supplies to the country over the harsh winter period.

Ukraine will clear a \$2 billion debt owned to Russian state-controlled Gazprom by turning over \$1.2 billion of natural gas deposits, along with a cash payment of \$929 million, said Russian Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov on Monday.

The figure is significantly higher than the \$1.3 billion figure mentioned by Gazprom last week when it threatened to cut its supply to Ukraine in the midst of the parliamentary elections unless the debt was quickly repaid.

The agreement was reached following a meeting between the Chairman of Gazprom, Alexey Miller, and Ukraine's fuel and energy minister, Yury Boiko. The debt will be cleared by November 1, with the deposits coming from RosUkrEnergo, a Swiss-registered gas transportation company, also part owned by Gazprom (other-otc: OGZPY - news - people).

Zubkov said that Russia hoped to increase cooperation with Ukraine, its main trading partner. "On the whole, we are satisfied with trade and economic relations. For the first half of 2007, trade turnover between Russia and Ukraine grew by 25.0%," he said. "This is evidence that Russia remains Ukraine's main trading and economic partner."

The swift resolution of the issue and the tone of Zubkov suggests a partial climb down by Gazprom, which had not expected the strong reception to the news by the international community. The move was condemned as an attempt to influence the outcome of the election, by preventing Yulia Tymoshenko from becoming prime minister. During a previous tenure as Prime Minister Tymoshenko built a reputation as a nationalist who challenged the existing power balance with neighboring Russia. Her tough stance contrasts with that of the current prime minister Viktor Yanukovich, who is expected to lose the election thanks to the "Orange" alliance between Tymoshenko and the party of President Viktor Yushchenko. (See: "Gazprom Hisses At Ukraine")

The agreement reached is also a positive development for European energy markets, which would have had their gas supplies cut if Gazprom reduced its deliveries to the Ukraine. During the previous crisis Gazprom accused Ukraine of siphoning off gas intended for Europe - a charge which was denied.

Thomson Financial contributed to this report.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://www.forbes.com/markets/2007/10/09/ukraine-gazprom-rosukrenergo-markets-equity-cx_vr_1009markets24.html

4. Russia-Ukraine gas row settled **The Press Association, 9 October 2007**

Russia says it has settled the row over Ukraine's gas supply debt.

It resolves a dispute that raised concerns of cuts in European supplies.

State-owned company Gazprom said earlier this month that Ukraine owed 1.3 billion US dollars (£650 million), but Russian Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov said the figure had risen to more than 2 billion US dollars (£1 billion).

He said Ukraine would repay 1.2 billion US dollars (£600 million) by transferring stored gas back to Gazprom.

The remainder will be paid by the companies that supply gas on the Ukrainian market, he said.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://ukpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5gYnfJsgp9yL5PhyVNJEEWAvpYiuA>

5. EU's Piebalgs: Watch Ukraine/Russia gas deal closely Reuters, 9 October 2007

VIENNA - Gas supplies to Europe are in the clear after Ukraine and Russia struck a deal over unpaid gas supplies, yet further developments should be carefully watched, EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs said on Tuesday.

Following a week-long dispute, Russian gas export monopoly Gazprom (GAZP.MM: Quote, Profile, Research) on Tuesday reached an agreement with Ukraine which set out a repayment schedule for \$1.2 million.

"This issue is definitely settled," Piebalgs told reporters after giving a speech in Vienna. "Now we still have difficult times ahead, and also the price negotiations for next year."

A similar pricing dispute between Gazprom and Ukraine led to cuts in gas supplies to Europe in January 2006.

Gazprom, the world's largest gas producer, supplies a quarter of Europe's gas and ships 80 percent of it via Ukraine.

"We should be watching very carefully how developments are in December, January," said Piebalgs.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKL0927802320071009>

6. Gazprom, Ukraine Agree to Settle Natural-Gas Debt (Update2) By Torrey Clark and Lucian Kim Bloomberg, 9 October 2007

GAZPROM, supplier of a quarter of Europe's gas, and Ukraine agreed to avert a threatened supply cut over an outstanding gas debt, amid a visit by Ukraine's pro-Russia prime minister to Moscow.

Gazprom will take ownership of \$1.2 billion of gas stored underground in Ukraine, selling it to consumers in that country and Europe, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov said today in remarks broadcast on national television channel NTV, after meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart, Viktor Yanukovich.

A \$929 million debt owed by retailer UkrGazEnergo to Gazprom's half-owned Ukrainian gas import venture, RosUkrEnergo AG, will be paid in cash by the end of this month, Zubkov said.

Gazprom warned European consumers last week of the possible supply cuts to Ukraine over what Russia's state-run gas-export monopoly called a \$1.3 billion debt. The dispute revived concerns about

President Vladimir Putin using energy as a political tool. As much as 85 percent of Russian gas is shipped to Europe across Ukraine.

Ukraine accused Russia of engineering a similar gas dispute in January 2006, during which European supplies were disrupted, to damage its economy and undermine President Viktor Yushchenko. Yanukovych won parliamentary elections in March that year.

Yanukovych, who met with Putin today at the president's residence near Moscow, may soon be ousted after the Orange Revolution alliance, parties led by Yushchenko and ex-Premier Yulia Timoshenko, gained a majority in early parliamentary elections on Sept. 30.

Underground Storage

Gazprom will get 8 billion cubic meters of gas from Ukraine's underground storage to cancel out the debt, Interfax said today, citing Yanukovych before he boarded a plane to Kiev.

Gazprom Chief Executive Officer Alexei Miller, Ukrainian Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko and the heads of the two Ukrainian gas traders signed an agreement to settle the dispute today, the Moscow-based company said in an e-mailed statement.

UkrGazEnergo pledged to make a \$200 million payment on its debt before Oct. 22, RosUkrEnergo spokesman Andrei Knutov said by telephone today. The retailer, a venture owned by RosUkrEnergo and Ukraine's state-owned NAK Naftogaz Ukrayny, already paid down part of more than \$1 billion owed last week. RosUkrEnergo will cut supplies to Ukraine if payment isn't received, he said.

Knutov declined to comment on Zubkov's or Yanukovych's remarks. Gazprom spokesman Sergei Kupriyanov didn't answer his mobile phone when called by Bloomberg.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aWrgO5JmtBjE&refer=home>

7. Moscow, Kiev reach gas deal as Ukraine PM visits Russia AFP, 9 October 2007

MOSCOW — Russia's state gas giant Gazprom and Ukraine on Tuesday signed an agreement to settle a gas payment dispute that had raised fears in Europe of possible disruptions in supplies.

"An agreement on settling the debt for gas to Ukraine has been signed," Gazprom said in a statement after a meeting between Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller and Ukrainian Energy Minister Yury Boiko.

Under the deal, the debt will be paid in full by November 1, Gazprom said.

Gazprom last week had threatened to cut off supplies to Ukraine this winter if the ex-Soviet country did not pay a 1.3-billion dollar (927-million euro) debt for supplies in 2007.

Analysts said that the timing of the threat may have been linked to parliamentary elections in Ukraine on September 30 in which pro-Western parties won a razor-thin majority over their Moscow-backed rivals.

Russia cut off gas to Ukraine last year in another payment dispute, leading to disruptions in supplies to several European countries that depend on the same pipelines running from Russia through Ukraine.

The European Union had urged the two sides to come to an agreement.

Meanwhile Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who favours closer ties with Russia, flew to Moscow on Tuesday for energy talks with his Russian counterpart Viktor Zubkov and President Vladimir Putin.

The visit comes as Yanukovich's Regions Party holds tense coalition talks in Kiev with the pro-Western parties -- Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc -- that won a majority in the elections.

Yanukovich's longtime rival, President Viktor Yushchenko, has urged all parties that won seats in the parliament to help form a coalition by the end of this week and to put an end to their feuding.

Critics have accused Russia of using gas supplies as a political weapon against Yushchenko, who aims to wrest his country from Russia's orbit and towards membership of the European Union and NATO.

Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who is also chairman of Gazprom, rejected such accusations on Sunday when he said that the price charged by Russia for its gas was based only on market principles.

Negotiations on gas prices "regularly provoke disputes that we do not understand. Sometimes it's even hysteria," Medvedev said.

"Our partners need to get used to the idea that you have to pay for the gas and pay in time, in accordance with contracts signed," he added.

At the meeting with Zubkov, Yanukovich welcomed the debt agreement and said that Ukraine could boost its role as a transit country for oil and gas supplies from Russia to Europe.

Almost all of the debt to Russia will be paid back by transferring ownership of natural gas stored in underground reservoirs in Ukraine to Gazprom, Zubkov said at the meeting.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5ibS-tgV0Ib_WFM5locPsLFR8GU4A

8. Russia settles dispute over Ukraine gas debt By Roman Olearchyk in Kiev and Neil Buckley in Moscow The Financial Times , 9 October 2007

Gazprom has avoided another energy standoff with Ukraine by reaching a deal on repayment terms for the \$2bn debt Moscow says it is owed for natural gas shipments to Kiev.

The agreement, signed during a trip to Russia's capital by Viktor Yanukovich, Ukraine's outgoing -- and Moscow-friendly -- prime minister, aimed to avoid a repeat of the 2006 pricing dispute which saw Gazprom cut shipments to Ukraine, triggering supply shortages in Europe.

"We created a mechanism allowing us to regulate this issue," Mr Yanukovich said.

The agreement was signed by the Russian gas monopoly and its partners in supplying gas to Ukraine -- Swiss-registered Rosukrenergo and Ukgazenergo, a Russian-Ukrainian joint venture.

As part of the agreement, Kiev agreed to ensure the companies repaid their debts by November 1, partially in cash and partially by transferring gas held in vast underground storage facilities.

The deal follows Gazprom's threat last week to cut supplies if Ukraine failed to settle \$1.3bn debts by November 1, raising concerns of new shortfalls to Europe. About 80 per cent of Russian gas exports to Europe pass through Ukraine.

Viktor Zubkov, Russian prime minister, said the debt had risen by early October to \$2bn, although Rosukrenergo, monopoly supplier of gas to Ukraine, said its overdue debt to Gazprom stood at only \$929m on Tuesday.

Gazprom's spokesperson, Sergei Kupriyanov, would not comment on why, how, or if, the debt had increased to \$2bn from \$1.3bn.

Mr Zubkov said Rosukrenergo would transfer back to Gazprom about \$1.2bn worth of gas. Rosukrenergo currently has some 10bn cubic metres stored in Ukraine's underground storage facilities near the EU border.

Officials in Kiev admit domestic consumers have been slow in paying gas bills. But they insisted much of the debt was owed not by the Ukrainian state - as Gazprom initially charged - but by two Gazprom-appointed intermediaries in charge of exporting gas to Ukraine and reselling it on the domestic market.

Gazprom owns 50 per cent of Rosukrenergo, which in turn owns 50 per cent of Ukrgaz-energo, the supplier of gas to Ukrainian industry. Both have built up massive stockpiles of gas but had trouble paying Gazprom due to the global credit squeeze.

While the debt deal could avoid supply cut offs, observers warned that it significantly boosted Gazprom's leverage in future price talks with Ukraine, whose pipeline system serves as the key artery for Russian supplies to Europe.

Control over this gas held underground could enable Gazprom to squeeze Ukraine by reducing supplies while keeping shipments to Europe stable. Ukraine's economy has grown impressively in recent years, but the country has struggled to adjust to high inflationary pressures after two stiff gas price hikes since 2006.

Gazprom's latest threat against Kiev has also been viewed as politically motivated, coming after parliamentary elections in Kiev which look set to return to power a pro-western coalition headed by former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Ms Tymoshenko has pledged to remove "shadowy" intermediaries from the gas trade between Ukraine, Russia and Central Asia.

James Sherr of the UK's Defence Academy, a research and educational institute for defence staff, described the Ukraine-Russia energy relationship as "a museum of contradictory truths."

"Gazprom is squeezing Ukraine and other post-Soviet states to get out of a trap of its own making: underinvestment in new production. [This] is the only way to meet rising demand in the EU and in Russia itself," he says. "Whoever runs Ukraine, however pro-Russian the government, the squeeze will continue, and the spasms between stability and crisis will grow shorter and sharper."

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/05743b16-7672-11dc-ad83-0000779fd2ac.html>

9. Gazprom builds another gas pipeline bypassing Ukraine **AFX News/Forbes, 9 October 2007**

MOSCOW (Thomson Financial) - OAO Gazprom has brought a gas pipeline into operation connecting Sudzha, Korenevo, and Glushkovo in the Kursk region to bypass Ukrainian territory, Interfax reported

The opening ceremony of the pipeline took place in the Glushkovo district today, Gazprom said in a statement.

The gas pipeline is designed to supply gas from the Uzhgorod trunk pipeline system to consumers in the Korenevo and Glushkovo districts of the Kursk region.

Before the bypassing pipeline was built, part of the Kursk region was supplied with gas through Ukrainian territory.

Last year, Gazprom built a similar 310 kilometre pipeline KS Sokhranovka-KS Oktyabrskaya in the Rostov region to connect the northern and southern border areas of the region, also bypassing Ukrainian territory.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2007/10/09/afx4200041.html>

10. Ukraine to be member of EU, it is only matter of time – Yushchenko UNIAN, 10 October 2007

In an interview with Pravda, Slovakia's second-largest and most influential daily, on Tuesday, President Victor Yushchenko talked about how to develop Ukraine's ties with Slovakia, especially in the energy sector, according to the President's press-office.

When asked whether Ukraine was closer to the EU after its September 30 parliamentary election, Yushchenko said the vote had been held in a democratic manner, describing this fact as an "important step in the context of Ukraine's European aspirations."

Speaking of visa relations between Ukraine and the European Union, he said: "I would like visa, trade, capital and service flow regulations and procedures to be as less painful as possible. [...] The EU must spare no effort to make the number of its partners grow, and I am not speaking here only about its formal partners," he said, expressing confidence "Ukraine will be a member of the EU." "It is only a matter of time."

Constant URL of article:

<http://www.unian.net/eng/news/news-216343.html>

11. It has begun By Natalia ROMASHOVA The Day, 9 October 2007

President Viktor Yushchenko's statement about the need to consolidate the three megaparties — the Party of Regions, Bloc Yulia Tymoshenko, and Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense — has sparked various reactions. Whereas the prime minister's comrades in arms immediately set about cooking a coalition porridge with the most exotic ingredients, the BYuT and representatives of the propresidential bloc have no intentions of improvising in the coalition kitchen. They want to cook their coalition dish according to one BYuT + NU-NS recipe. But there are exceptions to every rule. The democrats would not mind adding some spice to their dish in the form of Lytvyn's bloc, says Yuri Lutsenko, the number-one member of the propresidential bloc.

The coalition saga of 2007 has begun, and things are not going smoothly. Proof of the fact that the coalition cauldron is not boiling on schedule is that the promised deadlines have already passed. Yulia Tymoshenko said she would meet with the president on Monday to discuss in detail all the architectural nuances of the coalition project in the BYuT + NU-NS format. Today is Saturday [the day this article was written — Ed.] and the coalition wagon is still there. When the election campaign was going full blast, Viktor Baloha, head of the NU-NS election headquarters, had assured the public that it wouldn't take longer than an hour to form a democratic coalition. Well, no comment here, as they say.

The impression is that the propresidential bloc does not have a single decision-making center. This situation is causing serious complications. Whereas leading NU-NS party functionaries, like Yuri Lutsenko and Viacheslav Kyrylenko, keep talking about siding with the BYuT, the people on Bankova Street are either keeping mum, biding their time, or hinting at a broad coalition. The BYuT's Volodymyr

Yavorivsky was probably right when he declared that in order to avoid repeating past coalition mistakes a big statue of a garden rake should be unveiled in downtown Kyiv.

Despite the fact that the coalition process has just begun (let's hope it does not turn into another political saga), one can clearly see another Ukrainian-style coalition tradition emerging: backstage groping in the dark. Negotiations are being conducted on all fronts, with orange and white-blue talks being held behind tightly closed doors. Where there is no transparency, there is always room for bluffing and maneuvering. Therefore, it is very difficult to predict the coalition results in 2007 in the presence of this predictable unpredictability.

There are a few results, however. The Regionals recently met with representatives of the Lytvyn and communist blocs. According to Raisa Bohatyriova, certain tentative arrangements have been made. The majority's principle will be Ukraine's unity. Volodymyr Lytvyn, leader of the bloc named after him, agrees with this. The communists also support this slogan, provided there will be no BYuT or propresidential bloc people in this coalition. Raisa Bohatyriova, Volodymyr Lytvyn, Adam Martyniuk, and, for some reason, the socialist Yaroslav Mendus spent some time holding talks behind closed doors. Lytvyn was the first to speak with journalists. "I regard the president's proposal for a broad coalition as the correct stand. All the rest means a sequel to instability. There is no ruling out new early elections. Our country will not endure them." The fourth Verkhovna Rada speaker emphasized that he is not interested in occupying posts, including the speaker's seat, so he is calmly holding talks with the Party of Regions and the BYuT. Still, he hasn't made up his mind about siding with either of them. Prime Minister Yanukovych's comrades in arms want to bring everyone together. The maximum is four political forces.

The blue-whites say in no uncertain words that the success of the consolidation operation will largely depend on the stand taken by the Guarantor of the Constitution. Bohatyriova assures the public: "We are not enemies, we were just opponents. Today, we are participants in the negotiating process. We are not going to sacrifice anyone, and we believe that this very term is humiliating in regard to our possible partners and possibly our opponents."

There is talk in the corridors of power about Bohatyriova getting the speaker's seat if the foundation of the coalition structure turns out blue-white.

The communists do not like the idea of getting all the players of the parliamentary game together under one coalition roof. Their leader, Petro Symonenko, offers his own formula: PR + CPU + Lytvyn's block. If there aren't enough votes, Symonenko says they may reinforce their position through BYuT and NU-NS defectors. In fact, this defector maneuver may well prove to be effective, since the imperative mandate bill has not been passed. In the event of a broad coalition, the communists will work hard to master the science of being in the opposition. Symonenko says: "Proceeding from the ideological differences that we have with Our Ukraine, this is impossible and I said so from the outset."

On the opposite side of the political spectrum is a totally different concept of the coalition mosaic. The propresidential bloc has no intention of binding itself by any coalition commitments to the Party of Regions — only with BYuT for reasons of love. After a recent meeting with President Yushchenko, Lutsenko, the number-one Orange man, gave his assurances that the NU-NS and BYuT will have a majority in the Verkhovna Rada. He also hinted that the democrats' coalition doors are open for Lytvyn.

The ex-interior minister insists, "We reject any other provocative statements concerning the formation of a broad coalition, which would be a continuation of dirty games." He added that it is too early for talks with the Regionals. Once a democratic coalition is formed, then we will meet with the PR as the opposition. So far the BYuT + NU-NS coalition can count on 228 seats. President Yushchenko says that "there are enough votes to form a government, but this will not resolve the issue of political stability." Indeed, what with several MPs reporting sick, there will be no required 226-vote majority. This is why Bankova Street needs Lytvyn to reinforce the coalition, and he is only too well aware of this. The ex-speaker says: "I want the country to live in peace and quiet; I don't want to have 226 MPs compared to 224, or 228 compared to 222." Obviously, this is why he is desperately bargaining and in no hurry to play his trump cards too cheaply.

Another thing that must be considered is that it would not be advantageous to Yushchenko to dispatch Tymoshenko to the opposition. Even the hypothetical PR + CPU + NU-NS + Lytvyn bloc would have 294 votes. Amending the constitution requires 300 votes. (The president said that 2008 would be dedicated to a new constitutional process and adopting a new wording of the Fundamental Law.) Also, given this alignment of political forces, in the event of a broad coalition, there is a risk that some of Ukraine's leaders, with Lutsenko and Kyrylenko topping the list, will support the "core" faction. Therefore, a coalition with Lytvyn is the optimal option for the BYuT, NU-NS, and the head of state.

However, there is not much time left for reading Ukraine's political tea leaves, since (fortunately) the law sets out clear-cut deadlines for the formation of a majority in the Verkhovna Rada, submitting candidates for the post of prime minister, and other tasks. In other words, even if the new MPs decide to keep playing at the endless coalition roulette, it won't work for them. Under the law, the next parliament will have to form a coalition by Dec. 15.

The fact remains that by the deadline all the coalition game players without exception can be suspected of cheating. None of us have forgotten the scandalous 2006 coalition, and it is hard to predict who will pull the joker out of his sleeve and force the collapse of parliament at the very last moment.

* * *

Section 1, Article 96 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Election of People's Deputies of Ukraine" states that the Central Election Commission must establish the election results and draw up an appropriate report no later than on the 15th day after the election (i.e., no later than Oct. 15, incl.). Article 97 of this law states that the CEC must publish these results in the newspapers *Holos Ukrainy* and *Uriadovy kurier* no later than the 15th day after the results are determined (i.e., no later than Oct. 30, incl.). The official announcement of the election results provides grounds for dismissals from posts, which cannot be combined with an MP's mandate, and for passing decisions about the curtailment of another mandate. The MPs must submit a note to the CEC, confirming their retirement from such posts or the waiving of their mandate no later than the 20th day after the publication of the official election results. This provides grounds for registering a member of the Ukrainian parliament. The CEC must issue him/her with a temporary MP ID card within seven days.

The first session of the Preparatory MP Group is to be held no later than 10 days after the official announcement of the election results (i.e., no later Oct. 25). The first session of the newly elected parliament must take place no later than 30 days after the official announcement of the election results (i.e., by Dec. 14). After that, the MPs have 60 days (i.e., by Jan. 18, 2008) to form a government.

EXPERT VIEWPOINT

Volodymyr MALYNKOYCH, political scientist:

If the president chooses the broad coalition option, he will actually declare war on Tymoshenko, in which case he will halve his supporters, at the very least. I guess that in this case more than one-half of his supporters would side with Tymoshenko. Lutsenko is a spineless politician. As for Kyrylenko, Katerynchuk, and other people from this bloc, especially those representing the Ukrainka Pravysia bloc, they will not form an alliance with Yanukovich. This is absolutely unacceptable to them, just as many Yanukovich supporters find an alliance with Yushchenko unacceptable.

If a broad coalition is formed, this will mean that Tymoshenko will have considerably reinforced her position and will have a minimum of 40 percent rather than 30. How will these ratings increase? With the aid of propresidential bloc members who will cross over to her and even some PR members. As a result, she will crush Yushchenko during the presidential elections. Right after Yushchenko's broad coalition statement she declared without hesitation that this will never be and that she will go into the opposition. She knows that if she goes into the opposition, this will be the end of Yushchenko. She is acting absolutely decisively because she is confident of her strength.

You know that I am an outspoken opponent of the Orange Revolution, but I believe that this election must be recognized, and Tymoshenko should rule the country because she obtained the majority. I don't like this situation; I am not among her supporters, but this is a fact. By the way, the Party of Regions should join the opposition in order to become a party rather than a business clan. We don't need any broad coalition, since this wouldn't be a coalition but a conspiracy of oligarchs.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.day.kiev.ua/189266/>

12. Ukraine: sustainable development and prospects
By Yurii SHCHERBAK
The Day, 9 October 2007

Kyiv recently hosted the first international conference "Cooperation for Sustainable Progress," which was organized by a federation of Green parties in Europe and Asia. Delegates from 18 countries took part in the conference, among them the noted ecologist Prof. Aleksei Yablokov, corresponding member of Russia's Academy of Sciences; Alexander Lykhotal, president and CEO of Green Cross International (Switzerland); Andrei Yatsenia, Senior Adviser, Private-Public Partnerships at the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in Geneva (UN ISDR); the secretary of Denmark's Green Party Jean Rene Bendix Thierry; Natalie Debono, a delegate from the European Green Party (Malta), and others. The conference passed a resolution on holding annual meetings of Green delegates within the framework of the Kyiv International Environmental Forum (KIEF).

Below I offer readers my ideas concerning the problems that were discussed at this conference, particularly the Ukrainian point of view in regard to sustainable development.

This conference coincided with the anniversary of the UN summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992), which marked mankind's powerful intellectual breakthrough into the future. I was fortunate enough to take part in this summit as Ukraine's first Minister of the Environment and signed a number of important agreements on behalf of Ukraine. Among the fundamental instruments signed in Rio de Janeiro were the Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21.

The Rio conference launched into official circulation the concept of sustainable development, noting that the only way to secure long-term economic growth is by linking the process to measures aimed at protecting the environment. Among the slew of sustainable development ideas formulated in Rio de Janeiro was a clause stating that current progress must not be carried out to the detriment of development and environmental protection for the good of future generations.

One other thing: environmental protection is closely linked with the social and demographic situation. Social degradation and impoverishment result in environmental degradation and vice versa.

The Rio instruments were adopted in the romantic atmosphere that emerged at the end of the Cold War and the emergence of new independent states in Europe and Asia, when it seemed that the threat of a world nuclear conflict was history. It was the end of history, according to Francis Fukuyama. We believed at the time that countries were embarking on an entirely new kind of cooperation, starting from scratch as builders of democratic systems and independent civil societies.

I remember the Rio de Janeiro summit, where 178 world leaders met. Among them were George Bush, Sr., who applauded Fidel Castro's speech; German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who talked with Russia's Vice—President Aleksandr Rutskoi, one of the plotters of the future coup in that country; and Parliamentary Speaker of Ukraine Ivan Pliushch, who was introduced to a charming princess from Thailand, an Oxford graduate accompanied by two tough-looking generals. Most of the political leaders of that time are no longer working in the political arena, and the Rio principles are increasingly often being called into question.

Today, 15 years after the Rio summit, we have become aware that we are living in a world of new and harsh realities after the rosy post-Cold War period. There are new challenges, something that none of

the political leaders could have dreamed of in 1992. We are faced with increasing terrorist threats; the struggle for steadily depleting natural resources — organic fuel, uranium, water, food — has intensified. There are new armed confrontations in the Middle East and a rising degree of inequality among countries and peoples, which is aggravated by the globalization process. Very little is being done in the world to foster the supremacy of the principles of sustainable development and to implement the Rio summit's key ideas.

According to Prof. Yablokov, the crisis of human civilization is becoming more obvious, and it is transforming the ideas of sustainable development into a utopia. His skeptical approach is shared by a number of internationally acclaimed ecologists. Thus, according to the report *Mapping the Global Future*, published by the US Intelligence Council (2020 Project, 2004), the council, which was founded in order to develop scenarios until 2020, the main event will be communist China and India's emergence in the world arena as new global players with populations totaling 2.7 billion and increasing needs for energy and mineral resources. The European Union and Russia (as well as Ukraine) will experience serious problems in the sphere of demography: manpower reductions and aging populations. The 80-percent world economic growth anticipated in 2020, compared to 2000, offers no chance of achieving any degree of balanced economic and ecological progress.

Among the global economic, ecological, geopolitical, social, and technological risks defined in the report *Global Risks 2007, WEF, 2007* in Davos, "Climate change is now seen as one of the defining challenges of the 21st century — and as a global risk with impacts far beyond the environment changes in the climate are regarded as the greatest 21st century challenge, which will cause international and civil wars in the next 50 years."

All crises and the approaching global storm notwithstanding, there is no reasonable alternative to sustainable development. Here one must realize that a universal recipe for this development is nonexistent. Each country must solve the problem of sustainable development proceeding from its own objectives, national specifics, and economic possibilities.

The structure of sustainable development is a complex one, resting on several pillars; here the sociopolitical situation plays an especially important role — as in the case of Ukraine — apart from the traditional economic, social, and ecological components.

It suffices to recall the brief history of independent Ukraine with its three presidents and fourteen governments that struggled through the whirlwind of current problems and were unable to see the future in order to realize just how unstable the state political post-Soviet system was, incapable of reaching beyond the paradigm of an industrial society.

Under these conditions, the complex program for implementing the decisions passed at the sustainable development summit in Johannesburg (2002), approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in 2003, turned into yet another project that remained on paper. Such ornamental institutions as the National Council on Sustainable Development under the aegis of the President of Ukraine and the CMU's National Commission on Sustainable Development were either never convened or reduced to consultative functions.

What sustainable development can be discussed in a country where there is a pitched, unprincipled struggle for power (in other words, for ways to steal national resources), with permanent interparty (interclan) and personal conflicts on the highest political level, which have turned Ukraine into Europe's laughingstock? A country that allows a small group of oligarchs to uncontrollably and constantly increase their wealth, with the majority of the working masses on the verge of misery, breaches one of the basic laws of sustainable development, namely the harmonization of social standards and economic indices.

Against the deafening pomp of governments and parties advertising their singular economic achievements when they were in power in Ukraine (2004-07), the bitterly paradoxical fact remains that the GDP growth rate has made no impact on the living standard. Whereas in Poland, the GDP growth rate has reached \$1,000 and added one year to the average lifespan (bringing the total to five years), in Ukraine the growth of the GDP has resulted in the shrinking by nine months of the average lifespan. Instead of juggling with GDP figures (i.e., tons of produced metal, coal, iron ore, chemical agents), the

government should report to the people in terms of indices of human development: lifespan growth, better health, and education.

Over the past five years Ukraine's population has fallen by 2.3 million (4.3 percent). This is especially true of the "thriving" Donbas, Dnipro, and Kharkiv regions that are devoted to the Party of Regions — in other words, Ukraine's most socially and ecologically unsafe territories. The difference between the average lifespan in Ukraine and EU countries is between 10 and 11 years. Why don't the parties that are always boasting about economic achievements ever talk about why men and women are dying at such an early age in Ukraine?

The unresolved question of land sales and the lack of agricultural reforms are bringing the countryside, once the backbone of the Ukrainian nation, to the brink of extinction. Experts estimate that the Ukrainian earth can feed about 300 million people.

All the programs and manifestos issued by political parties contain populist promises for the electorate, but they offer no strategic programs aimed at Ukraine's future and its postindustrial progress by using science-oriented, energy— and resource-saving technologies.

Below I will focus on the main national problems of Ukraine's future; problems that must be resolved now, unless Ukraine wants to end up on the sidelines of history.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Despite the GDP's 60 percent drop in the 1990s and stoppages at a number of enterprises, the ecological situation has worsened. A document that was issued in Kyiv as part of a project of the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Ecological Foundation, entitled *Assessment of the National Potential in the Sphere of Global Ecological Management in Ukraine (2007)* states that one of Ukraine's features is the presence of a considerable number of depressed regional territories with a considerable degree of ecological degradation; there is a stable background of chemical mutagenic and carcinogenic pollution of the atmosphere, bodies of water, and soils, which considerably surpasses established hygienic standards; a large part of the Ukrainian population obtains fresh water with considerable deviations from fixed standards.

There are 400 tons of industrial waste for every Ukrainian citizen. Our country is engulfed by heaps of household rubbish, especially in the Crimea, which is quickly losing its famous health resort and recreational capacities; it looks as though the Crimeans, exhausted by their ecological and daily problems, will soon be spending their vacations in Antalya [Turkey] where the sea, air, and beaches are far cleaner.

Ukraine's political leadership must acknowledge the sad truth that our country has become perhaps the dirtiest in Europe, and not only in terms of politics. We are witness to the refutation of the myth about Ukrainian cleanliness.

Therefore, cleansing is the first slogan for Ukraine's sustainable development. Without reforming the local housing authorities and establishing cooperation with big business, this slogan will never be implemented.

However, the entire leadership of the country (no matter who comes to power) must show a consolidated will to combat environmental degradation. They must ensure that the budget contains not 0.5 percent of the GDP and not even five percent but seven to eight percent in order to get the cleansing project started.

2. THE STATE OF POWER ENGINEERING

Power engineering defines not only Ukraine's weak geopolitical point and its dependence on external factors, but also exerts a fundamental impact on its ecological situation.

Ukraine's main power-engineering problem has long been known: energy consumption here is three to four times higher than in any European country; it is nine times higher than in Japan. A harsh struggle against such a destructive consumption of energy and taxpayers' money should have long become the first national political priority. It never has, although there are many programs that have all remained on paper.

A mere 0.7 percent of energy is being generated through so-called green power sources, although Ukraine's potential promises up to 20 percent of such sources by 2015, as envisaged by the European Union's directives.

Instead of focusing on these priorities, Ukraine's governments develop plants for giant nuclear power engineering projects. One such project envisages the construction of another 22 nuclear power units, including 11 on new sites in Ukraine. What is this if not an irresponsible approach to one's own country and fellow Ukrainians, who experienced the Chernobyl disaster? Here everything is ignored, including the cost of each power unit, which Ukraine simply cannot afford (costs range from one to 1.6 billion dollars, depending on the unit's generating capacity; British experts estimate the construction of a 1,200 MW nuclear power plant at 2.4 billion pounds sterling, or more than 4 billion dollars (*Nuclear Issues Paper*, No. 5, Heinrich Boll Foundation, 2005). Also ignored are the high costs of nuclear power engineering, the lack of water resources and qualified personnel — people who are trained to build and run such nuclear power plants — as well as construction project terms (10-15 years), society's unwillingness to become hostages to nuclear power engineering, and finally the absence of support for these absurd projects on the part of the EU, with which Ukraine is seemingly getting ready to integrate.

Ukraine's power engineering is a battlefield for those who support sustainable development and those who ignore all economic and ecological laws in order to turn Ukraine back to the 1970s-1980s, when the USSR's omnipotent Sredmash sought to turn an obedient Ukraine into a nuclear testing range and radioactive waste dump — a problem that is still unresolved on a global level.

A nationwide discussion of national priorities, involving representatives of the public and foreign experts, would best serve Ukraine and its progress, rather than referendums aimed at the destruction of the Ukrainian language and establishment of this country's mythical neutral status.

3. DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION

The propagandistic measures of governments and political parties in order to stimulate our birth rate by issuing cash bonuses are not efficient enough. The main thing is to reduce the mortality rate of able-bodied men and deaths stemming from traumas, especially as a result of road accidents, and to get the AIDS/TB/drug abuse and alcoholism situation under control.

We know how to combat these evils; all we need is the political leadership's will to head in the right direction and its understanding of the threats facing our society. We must have quick and effective reforms in the health care system, which is practically destroyed in the current economic and social realities.

We must stop — or at least curb — the nationwide "beerification" of Ukraine, thanks to which millions of young alcoholics are being created. Are the interests of brewery and distillery tycoons more important than Ukraine's future?

4. CLIMATE CHANGES

These changes have become a reality for both Europe and Ukraine. In 2005, the atmospheric CO₂ concentration exceeded the average range in the past 650,000 years. Eleven of the past twelve years (1995-2006) were the hottest since ground surface temperatures started being recorded in 1850. "On the continental, regional, and ocean scales, numerous long-term changes in climate have been observed. These include changes in Arctic temperatures and ice, widespread changes in precipitation amounts, ocean salinity, wind patterns, and extreme weather, including droughts, heavy precipitation, heat waves, and the intensity of tropical cyclones." These are not passages from a horror story but

excerpts from the report *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis* published by the British Council in Ukraine. In 2007 *The Independent* wrote that "...if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise at current rates, global warming by the end of the century could total 6.4C. The scientists don't say so explicitly, but a rise in temperatures of this magnitude would catapult the planet into an extreme greenhouse state not seen for nearly 100 million years, when dinosaurs grazed on polar rainforests and deserts reached into the heart of Europe."

Problems relating to climate changes are not limited to the Kyoto Protocol, whereby Ukraine is entitled to sell hothouse gas emission quotas. The key is to draft a special national program aimed at preparing Ukraine to live and work in conditions of global warming, with deserts expanding and levels of the world's oceans rising. How to manage farms in drought-stricken areas, how to save elderly people, how to help children survive heat waves, how to create an infrastructure and avoid the onslaught of millions of ecological refugees — these and other issues must be faced and coped with by the state.

5. ECOLOGICAL DISASTERS

The phosphorus spill in Ozhydiv this past summer demonstrated that Ukraine's Ministry of Emergency Situations and Chornobyl Affairs and local authorities are not prepared to cope with such disasters. The sad lesson of Chornobyl has apparently not been learned; in Ozhydiv there was evidence of lack of coordination on the part of authorities, as well as concealment and delay of information.

Considering that Ukraine today has some 1,000 ecologically unsafe systems and installations, obsolete equipment, and the high risk of further breakdowns and disasters, it is high time to create a single National Emergency Management Center to coordinate the efforts of relevant ministries and agencies. It is extremely important to draft a critical infrastructure protection plan — energy, transport, chemical, nuclear, defense, communications, and other systems. This matter was raised at the 17th Economic Forum that took place in Krynica (September 2007, Poland).

It is also worth considering the proposal contained in the report *Global Risks 2007* to create the post of Global Risk Administrator for Ukraine, who would be in a position to determine national priorities in this sphere.

Who else but the president and the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine should concern themselves with this issue?

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO BE APPROVED BY THE STATE AND SOCIETY

This is probably the most difficult task, one that calls for intellectual courage, strategic thinking, and responsibility to future generations. The ideas of sustainable development should be included in the new Constitution of Ukraine and the European integration plan, and become a component of a national project for the next 50 years. They must be accepted and adopted by the people.

The new generation of Ukrainians does not want to bend beneath the weight of the post-Soviet traditions of nepotism, clannish protectionism, provincialism, lies, and corruption. Our people are sick and tired of living in a country that ranks at the bottom of lists, alongside the chaotic and crisis-ridden countries of Africa and Asia. The people's loss of confidence in all state institutions without exception — the president, government, parliament, and political parties — has reached a critical limit.

If our decision-makers continue to ignore the fundamental needs of the people and society while continuing to squabble in their petty struggle for power, substituting a serious discussion of Ukraine's future with pop concerts, bucketsful of dirt, and talk shows, our country will suffer a catastrophe and our politicians will be cursed by future generations.

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Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.day.kiev.ua/189279/>

13. Ukraine's new constitution should be drafted in the first half of 2008
UNIAN, 9 October 2007

President Victor Yushchenko believes Ukraine's new constitution should be drafted in the first half of 2008, Maryna Stavniychuk, his representative to the Central Election Commission and the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, said at a press briefing on Tuesday, according to the President's press-office.

Stavniychuk said Yushchenko was going to issue a decree to set up a National constitutional council. She said it would be headed by the president and consist of up to one hundred members, who will represent "all institutions of civil society."

Yushchenko wants the country's new constitution to be a "social contract, a consensus document which should be supported and accepted by the main political forces and the people of Ukraine at a national referendum," she said and added that her boss would call a constitutional referendum when a draft constitution was thoroughly discussed, calling such an approach "rational and sensible."

"The president believes constitutional reform is of fundamental importance for the development of society and thinks this challenge cannot be resolved when the country and its people are engaged in a political campaign with electoral slogans and promises," she said to explain why the president had not broached the subject during last month's election campaign. "The constitution should be improved in a quiet and peaceful atmosphere, when political forces can act in an absolutely responsible manner."

Stavniychuk said Ukraine's parliamentary forces supported Yushchenko's proposal to amend the constitution.

Speaking of the need to introduce constitutional reform, she described the country's supreme law as "evidently inconsistent with the challenges facing the country and society" and said it was necessary to create mechanisms for guaranteeing the observance of rights and freedoms and making all Ukrainians equal before the law. It is important to restore checks and balances in Ukraine's government to solidify its status as a democratic and legal state, she said, adding that Yushchenko wants also to reform the system of local self-government. Stavniychuk said the new constitution should also fix Ukraine's EU and WTO prospects.

The president is "consistent and resolute in his actions aimed to introducing strategic changes in the state and society," she said.

Constant URL of article:
<http://www.unian.net/eng/news/news-216275.html>

14. Ukraine scaring off potential investors
By Oleksii SAVYTSKY
The Day, 9 October 2007

Oligarchs' desire to privatize state-owned businesses for a song affects Ukraine's investment attractiveness

The socialist Valentyna Semeniuk, head of the State Property Fund, sees no reason for her agency to panic. She recently spoke at a hotline talk and a press conference in the Cabinet of Ministers' club, where she put in an appearance not so much as Ukraine's privatization boss as a representative of her party. Semeniuk also offered an analysis of the elections and reached the conclusion that falsifications during the voting were directed primarily against the Socialist Party of Ukraine.

Semeniuk said she hopes to remain in her position a lot longer but did not exclude a different scenario: "The specialists in the fund are sufficiently experienced. Any representative may be appointed head of the fund." At the same time, she emphasized that both appointments and removals from office require a majority vote in the Verkhovna Rada. "I would like to see another person walk into the session room and garner as many votes as I did — 313," she said with a trace of nostalgia in her voice.

Ms. Semeniuk said that there is "too much work for her to do" at the fund because the schedule for budget receipts from privatization has been disrupted due to protracted court trials. In her opinion, this is the cause behind the continuing deterioration of Ukraine's investment attractiveness and losses to the budget. She says this is advantageous primarily for Ukrainian big shots that are deliberately scaring off foreign investors, thus beating down the price of enterprises slated for privatization. "If they want to bring the price down, they go to court, and halt the competition. Then the Special Control Commission passes a resolution or the president issues an edict to cancel the auction. This causes a significant drop in the price because potential buyers abandon the purchases," said Semeniuk, describing current schemes. At the same time, she believes that Ukraine's oligarchs will have no trouble issuing an Initial Public Offering (IPO) even now. "Today the dozen or so of Ukraine's wealthiest oligarchs can easily reach the IPO level. They can all issue it," said the head of the State Property Fund.

Ukrtelekom is also entangled in a similar legal imbroglio: for some time now it has been subjected to the privatization procedure but to no avail. Naturally, the State Property Fund is interested in obtaining as much as possible from the auction. However, it has yet to hear a desirable figure from potential buyers.

"Ukrtelekom is worth \$800 million. But before privatizing it, we need to study the situation in the market. If its shares are listed, we take the listed figure as the starting point for the auction," Semeniuk says. However, "some players are not interested in this. They stop the fund's initiatives, thus scaring off foreign investors...If the price of one share is 1.15 UAH, then Ukrtelekom's starting price is 4.7 billion UAH. Why are they so afraid of transparency and an honest estimate of Ukrtelekom's assets? Because they want to get it for a song," Semeniuk said in response to her own question. "I met potential buyers, and in response to my question they said that they cannot buy Ukrtelekom before the parliamentary elections because the situation in Ukraine is unstable now. Another thing: why were all private companies given the right to do business in the cellular phone sector whereas the state-owned company wasn't? This was to prevent this company's capitalization level from going up. So we put five percent of Ukrtelekom's shares to sell on the stock exchange in order to gauge the company's real value."

The fund is facing even more serious challenges, such as the Kryvy Rih Oxidized Ore-Dressing Complex. President Yushchenko asked the Security Service of Ukraine and the Prosecutor General's Office to investigate the fund's actions in connection with this enterprise. On Sept. 20 the State Property Fund was planning to sign a contract to set up a joint venture to complete the construction of the complex. The other party to the contract was going to be the Ukrainian Ore Metallurgy Company, owned by the Russian holding company Metalinvest on parity principles with Ukrainian Smart-Holding. The contract was not signed.

The president believes that the fund violated the law. "I request that an investigation be launched within your respective jurisdictions into whether the State Property Fund abided by current legislation when it decided to create a joint venture attached to this complex. In the event of a violation, I request that necessary measures be taken," Yushchenko's decree states. In response, Semeniuk claims that through his decree the president was lobbying in the interests of the owners of Mittal Steel. "It's simple: Mittal Steel's lobbying interests won. Mittal Steel wants to gain control of everything, after which Ukraine's metallurgy will come to a halt," Semeniuk told journalists on Wednesday, before the start of the Cabinet of Ministers' meeting in Kyiv.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.day.kiev.ua/189283/>

15. Lytvyn Stands a Better Chance of Becoming President by Remaining Independent Ukrayinska Pravda, 9 October 2007

First Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk expects that Volodymyr Lytvyn will join no political force in the sixth Verkhovna Rada because of his presidential ambitions.

He stated this in an interview with *Stolychni Novyny* newspaper.

“In regards to Mr. Lytvyn, he will likely join neither the coalition nor opposition because he announced his presidential ambitions.”

“If he joins the Our Ukraine-People’s Self-Defense Bloc and Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, there will be two more candidates for president from the democratic forces – Yulia Tymoshenko and Viktor Yushchenko,” said Mr. Kravchuk.

“If Mr. Lytvyn joins the Party of Regions with only one presidential candidate, Viktor Yanukovych, he will fight against the political force being actually part of it.”

“In the eyes of voters he will play second fiddle in both cases,” concluded the former President.

In his view, “if Lytvyn remains independent, his party will become a new political force with its own position”.

“However, these are only my presumptions. Time will show what Mr. Lytvyn himself thinks.”

According to election minutes processed, Mr. Lytvyn was supported by 3.96% of voters. He has never run for president before.

Permanent Link: <http://www.pravda.com.ua/en/news/2007/10/9/9156.htm>

16. A Democratic ABC for Ukrainian politicians with learning problems By Halya Coynash maidan.org.ua, accessed on 10 October 2007

Let’s hope that Ukrainian politicians have learned one lesson this week and have understood that Ukraine’s democratic choice is unequivocal and not subject to novel adaptation. And that is in spite of Ukrainian politicians.

This was, of course, a repeat lesson. The first was given most dramatically on the snow-clad squares and streets of Ukraine in late 2004. The problem was that last time the voters stood their ground until victory was secure and then left them to it. They didn’t scrutinize them, didn’t monitor their actions and when some behaviour raised eyebrows they looked down at the ground so nobody would see. It was, in fact, for the best of motives, out of genuine support and trust. Any teacher, however, will tell you the worth of lessons not consolidated - precious little. Three years later, a little bruised, with illusions vanished, the Ukrainian people have once again demonstrated their right to freedom and dignity. This time, however, they, at least, have certainly learned. This time, they will be taking no chances. Some of the lessons are easy if we don’t balk at being a touch monotonous and if we don’t fear stating what any idiot should understand. We made that mistake before. From now on, let them groan with boredom – they will learn!

A simple ABC could begin with: the laws are made to be obeyed, and that includes by politicians. If they ignore them, we will remind them, take them to court and demand our rights. For those slow on the uptake, not just once! Speaking of which, we have every right to expect that deputies’ immunity and shameful concessions will be severely curtailed forthwith! Another reminder would be that politicians are there to represent those who voted for them. It’s a brutal game, this education lark, and some just won’t learn. Certain politicians who invented their own version of democracy were flung out

of parliament this week. Many with clear learning difficulties remain, it has to be said. The choice unfortunately was somewhat limited.

Some lessons are harder. The subject matter is less clear and the teachers may not be quite sure of their ground. Take, for example, fundamental expectations of independence and non-interference by politicians in areas outside their realm. We have become so accustomed to hearing politicians inform us that this or that ruling by a court was flawed, to hearing them make decisions only the Constitutional Court is empowered to make and threaten judges whose rulings were not to their taste, that we have forgotten how entirely unacceptable such interference is. Or, regrettably, we remember only when the politicians represent different views from our own. "Our" politicians behave just as outrageously with our tacit consent. This, of course, is nothing but a pedagogical time bomb.

Ukrainian journalists stood up for their rights almost three years ago, and they won. Not entirely, a lot of work still needs to be done, but politicians have learned that they won't get away with flagrant pressure and censorship. Journalists have in their turn learned to defend their rights, and most cheerfully to stand up for their colleagues. And the public has become much less tolerant of being fed lies and disinformation. We need to develop this more widely, and here I am thinking specifically of the judiciary. Work is needed to reduce tolerance for any blurring of the demarcation line between branches of power. Politicians are not feudal lords, and they are empowered – by the voters - only to legislate, not to stand in judgment over the courts and its judges. There is simply no excuse for the behaviour of many politicians in placing the very foundations of a law-based society at risk. There is also, of course, no excuse for those judges who allow themselves, for what ever reason, to be influenced, and this must also be addressed. There can be no excuse, and there must therefore be no tolerance. We will be endeavouring to make this less so clear and accessible over the next months that – following concentrated measures in lesson consolidation – nobody will be in any doubt as to how much tolerance they can expect. They can expect none.

Halya Coynash (*Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group*)

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://eng.maidanua.org/node/777>

17. The 2007 early parliamentary elections: a general assessment
By Yevhen Zakharov
maidan.org.ua, accessed on 10 October 2007

It has already become commonly accepted that the 2007 elections were democratic, transparent, honest and fair. There was no wide-scale and systematic vote-rigging, the political factions managed to avoid confrontation and scandal, and those incidents which did occur were unable to influence the final result. While in general agreeing with this assessment, we would like to point out the shortcomings in these elections which were the result of a flawed law and which were therefore difficult to avert both in 2006 and in these early elections.

This applies firstly to discriminatory norms for voting solely according to where a person is registered. In order to avoid vote-rigging with absentee ballot papers, the legislators seriously restricted these in 2006 and in 2007 totally prohibited their use. This means that a large number of people who do not live and work where they're registered could only vote by travelling to the relevant city or village. In terms of numbers, just in Kyiv various estimates put this figure at between four hundred to eight hundred thousand voters. Obviously the vast majority of these people simply did not vote.

Secondly, those who have been forced to go abroad to earn a living because they can't find a job at home, and who are not registered at a consulate, i.e. illegal labour migrants lost their right to vote. One can not expect that any of them would specially travel home in order to take part in the elections. According to figures published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, from 2003 to the middle of September 2007 approximately 3.3 million Ukrainian nationals have left the country.

Thirdly, a fair number of people couldn't vote if they went abroad after 1 August this year. According to Article 102-3 § 9 of the Law "On the elections", the State Border Guard Service "submit information three days before the elections to district electoral commissions about people registered within the relevant administrative-territorial unit, ... who have indeed crossed over the State border of Ukraine and at the moment that this information is being submitted are not known to have returned to Ukraine." Yet what do those who returned after 26 September do? The law did not take care of their needs and effectively deprived them of their voting rights. The district commissions removed these people from the lists, and there was effectively no chance of being reinstated. There were quite a lot of such people – according to observers in the Lviv region – up to 50 thousand, in the Luhansk and Kharkiv regions – as many as 40 thousand. In some border districts, there were up to half of these, for example, in Berehovo in the Transcarpathian region. A lot of people didn't find their names of the lists although they returned in August or the first half of September. Furthermore, border guards, in breach of this law, sent the information more than three days before the elections. For example, information was sent about 4,842 voters to the district commission of electoral district No. 173 on 23 September. A couple returned to Kharkiv from their holidays on 24 September. They checked on 26 September to see that they were on the list, and yet on 30 September their names were not there. At that polling station 19 people were removed from the list following information received from border guards, and 10 of them met up at the Dzhherzhynsky District Court in Kharkiv. The court however refused to reinstate them. We could give many such examples. There were frequent cases where voters' names were not on the lists although they had returned to Ukraine in the middle of September or in August. In some areas the district electoral commissions drew up supplementary lists to give those removed from the basic lists on information from border guards the chance to vote. For example, the district commission of electoral district №109 (Severodonetsk) on 30 September allowed 6 thousand voters who had been excluded from the lists for this reason to vote if they came themselves to the polling station. However the Luhansk District Administrative Court declared this decision unlawful, admittedly, already after the elections.

Fourthly, the quality of the lists was extremely low and much worse than in 2006. The Committee of Voters of Ukraine estimates that due to shortcomings in the voter lists around 1.5 million citizens (including those removed because of information from the Border Service) may have been deprived of their right to vote. This was linked with the fact that working groups for drawing up registers, creating within bodies of local self-government and district administrations used as their basis old lists from 2006 or even 2004. This resulted in the lists containing many "dead souls", people who had in fact died, or others who had moved, etc. Young people who had only recently turned 18 were also not added. There were also a lot of problems with lists over the use of unchecked software to try to make a kind of electronic database of voters, as well as with the insufficient training of staff. This software often identified one and the same person as two different people which resulted in a large number of doubles. 44 thousand such look-alikes (around 4 %) were found in the Kharkiv region and around 5 thousand in Sevastopol (approximately 3%). In 2006 these mistakes were ironed out in the Central Election Commission [CEC] and in regional commissions, however at the 2007 elections this thankless task was placed on the shoulders of district and local commissions. . And then it all depended on the will and effort of members of these commissions. A large number of the most obvious mistakes were corrected, however a lot still remained. There were anecdotal consequences of inexpert work with the lists: in Kharkiv more than 2 thousand voters were found, supposedly over the age of 107, since in the absence of the relevant information, the computer had put down their birth date as 1 January 1900.

As a result, on voting day a very large number of people were not able to vote. If one compares data from the CEC on voting at the elections in 2006 and 2007, it transpires that the number who took part fell by 1,775 million (the figures at the end of voting were compared). In our view, a major part of this reduction can be attributed to systemic failings in the Law on the elections.

Just as in 2006 the elections demonstrated a large number of technical mistakes made by members of the electoral commissions who were on the whole not able to cope with all the details of the electoral law. This resulted in very tense relations between commission members representing different political parties, mutual suspicion and accusations of vote-rigging and even fights.

We can thus conclude that attempts by the legislators to provide adequate legal guarantees of protection against vote-rigging and ensure transparency led to excessive complications in the Law on the elections, with details regulating of electoral procedures, complicated structure with poll protocols,

etc. the Law was designed for experienced bureaucrats and not volunteers from political parties who for a number of objective and subjective reasons were not able to fully cope with the complicated procedural aspects. Both in 2006 and now this led to confusion in filling out protocols, provoked unwarranted suspicions of corruption among commission members and led to the results of the elections at many polling stations being appealed in the courts. On an overall scale, the attempts to avert vote-rigging led to millions of voters losing their vote. We must acknowledge that the electoral system as a whole is based on mutual distrust among its participants, and this trend towards complicating the legislation leads only to further losses and an increase in such distrust. In our view, the paradigm behind electoral legislation needs to be changed with the main features becoming safeguards of freedom, democracy and trust. Only in that way will it become possible to unite different individuals in a political community. The guarantees against abuse must ensure a high-quality electoral register and well-developed procedure for checking it.

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Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://eng.maidanua.org/node/776>

18. Vitrenko Urging Party Of Regions, Communist Party MPs To Demand New Snap Election Ukrainian News Agency, 10 October 2007

Progressive Socialist Party leader Natalia Vitrenko is calling on the 6th convocation Verkhovna Rada deputies from the Party of Regions and the Communist Party not to take the oath, and go to new early parliamentary elections.

She made this call in her address to Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovych.

«People's deputies from the Party of Regions and the Communist Party should refuse from oath-taking, and go to a new snap election,» the address reads.

Vitrenko is urging the Party of Regions and the Communist Party to run for a new parliament in a single anti-Orange bloc, together with the Progressive Socialist Party.

She says there are good legal grounds for those deputies not to swear into office.

«Those are President Yuschenko's participation in the parliamentary ballot with the Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense bloc, egregious foreign interference with the holding of TV debates on central channels with US grants and under their conditions, and mass bribing of voters under the cover of the Security Service of Ukraine,» the address says.

In the PSPU leader's opinion, the mechanism she proposes can hinder the policy of a possible future coalition of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense aiming at Ukraine's withdrawal from the Commonwealth of Independent States and entry in NATO and the World Trade Organization.

As Ukrainian News reported, under preliminary results of voting in the recent Verkhovna Rada elections, the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine won 1.32% of the votes, which is insufficient for getting to parliament.

Verkhovna Rada elections took place on September 30.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.ukranews.com/eng/article/71992.html>

19. Give Tymoshenko her opportunity
David Marples, Freelance
The Edmonton Journal, 9 October 2007

Ukrainian election demands a change of leadership

The parliamentary election results in Ukraine are virtually complete. The electorate has changed its mood since the 2006 elections, weakening the positions of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich (Regions Party), and President Viktor Yushchenko (Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defence Party --OU-PSDP).

According to official figures, and with 99.98 per cent of ballots tallied, five parties have crossed the three-per-cent barrier and will get seats in Parliament: the Party of Regions has 34.37 per cent (175 delegates); the Yulia Tymoshenko bloc has 30.71 per cent (156); OU-PSDP has 14.15 per cent (72); the Communist Party has 5.39 per cent (27); and the Volodymyr Lytvyn bloc has 3.96 per cent (20). Just below the barrier is the Socialist Party with 2.86 per cent.

The figures tell only part of the story. In terms of votes, the figures for the Regions have fallen since last year by more than 100,000; those for the president's party have dropped by 230,000 despite his alliance with the People's Self-Defence Party led by Yuri Lutsenko; whereas those for the Tymoshenko bloc increased dramatically from 5.6 to 7.16 million. Moreover, unlike votes for the other parties that were split along an east-west divide, Tymoshenko's tally was gained from all parts of the country.

Shortly after the votes were counted, Lutsenko expressed his support for an "Orange" presidency that would be led by Tymoshenko. That would be the logical move, but it has not been endorsed by the president. Yushchenko has suggested that the leading parties should form a ruling coalition, which would imply that the leader of the largest faction -- Yanukovich -- would remain prime minister in the new government.

Clearly a variety of coalitions are possible, but the Tymoshenko bloc has refused to serve in a government with the Regions and appears to form a more natural ally with OU-PSDP. With the Socialists excluded from Parliament, this Orange coalition has 228 seats, constituting a narrow majority in the new assembly. If the Lytvyn bloc is invited to join, then this coalition would grow to 248 seats, a stable majority in the 450-seat parliament.

Why would Yushchenko be reticent about such a development? In this election he campaigned to little avail. He is an unpopular president and his faction attained outright victory in only one region, the westernmost Transcarpathian province of Ukraine. If he agrees to the Orange coalition, Tymoshenko will be the main figure and may choose to run for the presidency.

Moreover, Yushchenko is not in a position to form a coalition. It is no longer the president's prerogative to do more than suggest the new prime minister for approval by parliament. It appears Yushchenko may prefer to keep Yanukovich as prime minister than be trumped by the charismatic and outspoken Tymoshenko, whom he dismissed from his cabinet in 2005.

As for Yanukovich his behaviour has been anything but parliamentary. Indeed one wonders why foreign governments and international observers were so quick to declare that the election was a triumph for democratic procedures given the dubious actions of Yanukovich and his sponsor, Rinat Akhmetov.

When it appeared that Tymoshenko was leading, the counting process inexplicably dried up in the eastern regions. Days later, Regions then took the lead and continued to increase it as the final votes came in from strongholds like Donetsk and Luhansk. Some Canadian observers received hostile treatment when monitoring the election in Mariupil. The final tallies provide the sort of unlikely Regions' majorities that Yanukovich received in the notorious presidential election in 2004. The Socialists, who appeared to have a lost cause, almost crossed the threshold too, thanks to the returns in the east and south.

But whatever the Regions Party did in its areas of control it was insufficient to change the election. The apparent Orange mandate was attained despite the weight and finances of Ukraine's major entrepreneurs being placed behind the Regions Party.

But one cannot expect Yanukovich to go quietly. Thanks to the division of the Orange camp his Regions Party remains the largest in the assembly, in part from ambiguous vote counts. He has advanced his claim to remain prime minister. But, he can't manage this without support from the Orange camp. He is assured of support from the Communists, but even if the Lytvyn bloc also joined a Regions-led coalition, its total seats would be 222 -- four short of a majority.

Thus the only way for Yanukovich to survive is to receive a hand from Yushchenko. Legally, the president cannot form a coalition but that does not mean he will not try. Indeed, in the past year he has conducted several actions that defy the constitution, not least the dissolution of the previous Parliament.

And paradoxically, Yushchenko's best chance of retaining influence over the political situation as president lies in a broader parliamentary coalition with his former nemesis, Yanukovich. Arguably though, a new reformist Orange coalition under prime minister Tymoshenko is a better reflection of what the public wants. Yanukovich would be leader of the opposition with strong backing, but would not be in a position to dictate policy.

Ukrainians deserve a better government than they have had recently and perhaps it is time to give Tymoshenko her opportunity.

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Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/opinion/story.html?id=edade95e-6278-46dd-8a9d-0f642871eae4&p=2>

20. Yushchenko Says Referendum of 2004 and 2007 Will Differ Ukrayinska Prawda, 9 October 2007

President Viktor Yushchenko insists on necessity to hold all-Ukrainian referendum concerning changes to the Constitution of Ukraine.

He stated this at the awards ceremony dedicated to the Lawyer's Day, Obkom news agency reports, with references to Ukrainian News.

"As to basic principles and text of the Constitution of Ukraine, let us appeal to the people and look for a support," said Mr. Yushchenko.

In the President's opinion, it is Ukrainian society that decides constitutional model of power.

"We should not be afraid of public discussion. If we need a referendum, let us hold it," stressed Mr. Yushchenko.

He emphasized that he was against holding the referendum at the same time as early parliamentary election; however, now after the election it is necessary to hold it.

Mr. Yushchenko also voiced hope for the Verkhovna Rada active participation in the process.

"I guarantee the only thing -- no one in the parliament will make changes or a new edition of the Constitution of Ukraine without a discussion like it was in 2004," stated the President.

**21. GUAM Youth Forum to be registered in Justice Ministry of Ukraine
Azeri Press Agency, 9 October 2007**

GUAM Youth Forum located in Kyiv headquarters will be registered in Justice Ministry of Ukraine soon, Ministry of Youth and Sport told the APA. GUAM Youth Forum was established with the participation of Azerbaijani, Ukrainian, Moldovan, and Georgian youth organizations in Kyiv on May 23 in 2006. Youth organizations of the two countries, as well as Azerbaijan Youth Union and Azerbaijan Volunteers Public Union established Youth Forum. Various summits with the participation of youth organizations and state bodies for youth of member countries was held on the establishment of GUAM Youth Forum and regulations of GUAM Youth Forum, was discussed at these summits. Regulations of GUAM Youth Forum, actions plan for 2007, appeals to GUAM states' presidents and parliaments, UN and CE were received at the first congress of Forum in Baku. Ukrainian representative Victor Below is chairing the Forum at present./APA/

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://en.apa.az/news.php?id=36884>

**22. Ukrainian businessman Pinchuk invests in Clinton Global Initiative
Ukrainian Journal, 9 October 2007**

Ukrainian businessman and philanthropist Viktor Pinchuk has become a partner of the 42nd U.S. President William Clinton in the Clinton Global Initiative, Viktor Pinchuk Foundation reported. Pinchuk said the Clinton Global Initiative would help create a world charity network coordinating and uniting the activity of charity workers from various countries.

Full text available to subscribers only on World Wide Web, URL:
http://www.ukrainianjournal.com/index.php?w=other_new&id=2946

**23. Ukrainian bishops address evangelization, youths, priestly formation
By Regina Linskey
Catholic News Service, 9 October 2007**

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Ukrainian Catholic bishops focused on evangelization, priestly formation and youth ministry during their worldwide synod, said the major archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of Kiev-Halych, Ukraine, said the bishops discussed broad issues that were meaningful to all their members in different countries. Because of the "historical emigration" of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, it is "a global church," he said.

Synod members had to address major topics and "limit ourselves primarily to such issues that are meaningful" to "our faithful and to our church and where that church exists," Cardinal Husar said during a press conference at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington Oct. 5.

Ukrainian Catholic bishops from around the world met in Philadelphia and Washington for their Sept. 26-Oct. 6 synod, the first Eastern Catholic synod to be held in the United States. Synod dates were chosen to coincide with the centennial celebration of the arrival of Bishop Stephen Ortynsky, the first Byzantine Catholic bishop in America.

Learning from previous phases of the emigration of Ukrainian Catholics, the church today needs to "act much quicker" to help Ukrainian Catholics emigrating by the hundreds of thousands "remain themselves," said the cardinal.

In Western Europe, the Eastern church structure exists, but the church needs to pay attention to places such as Israel, Libya and South Africa, where Ukrainian Catholics are settling and where there is no church structure, he said.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church is one of 22 Eastern Catholic churches. It is fully in union with Rome but has maintained the liturgical and spiritual heritage shared with the Orthodox churches. Before the synod, one Ukrainian Catholic official said his church's liturgical traditions have been abandoned and are more like the Latin-rite church.

Cardinal Husar said that during the synod the bishops also focused on the "education and life" of a priest, who "could carry on his duties and live his vocation no matter where he is" around the world.

He said the bishops looked at reaching out to youths and helping them to be good Christians. The bishops hope to release a major document on the topic in a couple of months, church leaders said.

Cardinal Husar explained that there are two types of youths in the Ukrainian Catholic Church: those who already actively participate in the life of the church and those who do not consider the church an answer to their questions. Reaching out to the second type of youths is a universal challenge, he said.

In Ukraine, Catholic leaders are challenged to help "young people who do not know the church, who are trying to solve on their own the problems of identity," said Cardinal Husar.

"So few are coming into the seminaries and the monasteries ... we have to try to understand and help them," he said, adding that some might have a calling but do not know what to do without guidance.

Ukrainian Archbishop Stefan Soroka of Philadelphia said that sharing during the synod already helped the bishops garner specific information so they can "begin to act (when they return to their local churches) even before a major recommendation."

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0705747.htm>

24. Official: Danube river in Ukraine polluted by unknown substance AP/The International Herald Tribune, 9 October 2007

A nearly mile-long oily slick of an unknown pollutant was spotted moving down the Danube river in Ukraine toward the Black Sea, Ukrainian officials said Tuesday.

The 1.5 kilometer-long and 5 meter(16-foot)-wide slick, which was detected Monday in the Ukrainian segment of the Danube river, is believed to have come from neighboring Romania, said Serhiy Zablotsky, spokesman for the regional branch of Ukraine's Emergency Situations Ministry.

Zablotsky said the slick could be the result of a Romanian plant dumping technological waste into the river.

Serhiy Likhachyov, a top local environmental inspection agency official, said that experts have taken samples of the oily substance to determine its nature and whether it presents any danger.

Officials in Romania could not immediately be reached for comment.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/10/09/europe/EU-GEN-Ukraine-Environment.php>

**25. Russia-Ukraine trade may approach \$30 bln in 2007 - PM Zubkov
RIA Novosti, 9 October 2007**

MOSCOW - Trade between Russia and Ukraine may reach around \$30 billion by the end of the year, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov said on Tuesday.

"This year, trade may come close to \$30 billion, which shows that Russia remains the main trade and economic partner for Ukraine," Zubkov said during negotiations with Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who is in Moscow to discuss, among other things, his country's gas debt to Russian gas giant Gazprom.

Zubkov said bilateral trade grew 25% in the first half of 2007. "On the whole, we are satisfied with the state and development of trade and economic relations," he said.

In 2006, imports from Ukraine to Russia increased 6% to \$5 billion, while Russia's exports to its ex-Soviet neighbor totaled \$8.9 billion.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20071009/83141343.html>
