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**1. Head of State signed declaration on Ukraine's joining joint nuclear energy and non-proliferation initiative of USA and Russia  
NRCU, 18 September 2007**

*Adviser with the Secretariat of President Bohdan Sokolovskyi told this a news briefing in Kyiv today.*

According to the declaration, Ukraine supported the initiative by the USA and Russia regarding principles of maintaining technical cooperation in creating modern safe reactors and facilitation of the access to financial resources of the development of the nuclear industry, Mr Sokolovskyi said, by way of commenting on the declaration. He added that Ukraine stood for securing stability of the commercial nuclear fuel market and guaranteeing access to reliable sources of fuel and nuclear services. The Ukrainian President believes that the offered principles correspond to the national nuclear policies, particularly, in diversification of supply sources and creation of the own production of nuclear fuel. Thus, Bohdan Sokolovskyi stressed, Ukraine was ready to participate in multilateral and bilateral talks with countries, which mean to jointly and transparently develop their nuclear energy industries.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=51892>

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**2. Orange gear a no-no in Ukraine**  
**By Ethan McNern**  
**The Scotsman, 19 September 2007**

BUILDING crews working on a new stretch of road in Ukraine were ordered to remove their fluorescent orange gear - because they were due a visit from the man who was humiliatingly defeated in the country's 2004 "orange revolution".

Viktor Yanukovich, now the Ukrainian prime minister, apparently still sees red when he sees orange, even though he has bounced back from that presidential election defeat.

Mr Yanukovich, who is leading his Regions Party into parliamentary elections on 30 September, opened the new stretch of road in central Ukraine on Monday.

Before his arrival, Volodymyr Demishkan, head of the state roads authority, told workers "Take off those orange overalls", according to the Kommersant Ukraine newspaper.

Many workers refused, but another official pleaded with them, saying he would otherwise face dismissal. Eventually, they complied.

Mr Yanukovich lost the 2004 presidential election to Viktor Yushchenko after weeks of mass rallies against poll fraud by protesters in orange regalia.

He returned to head a new government in August last year, after a pro-western "Orange" coalition collapsed.

The Regions Party sports blue and white colours.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/international.cfm?id=1498362007>

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**3. Ukraine should stop large companies from buying up land – Yanukovych**  
**Interfax, 18 September 2007**

VINNYTSIA. Sept 18 () - Ukrainian Prime Minister and leader of the Party of Regions Viktor Yanukovych has called for creating legal barriers to prevent large companies, especially foreign ones, from continuing to buy up land en-masse in Ukraine.

"We should pass a law that would make it impossible for both Ukrainian and foreign large corporations to buy up land," Yanukovych said in live remarks on the Vinnytsia TV and radio station on Tuesday.

This concerns primarily foreign capital, because "foreign capital is stronger than Ukrainian capital," he said.

The prime minister also zeroed in on the corruption accompanying the sale of land in Ukraine. "We cannot afford officials enriching themselves at the expense of the state and the people," the premier said, stressing the necessity of public control over land sales.

"We should not allow officials to tackle the issue during the land reform. Everything should be under public scrutiny," Yanukovych said. ar md

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[http://www.interfax.ru/e/B/finances/26.html?id\\_issue=11859963](http://www.interfax.ru/e/B/finances/26.html?id_issue=11859963)

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#### **4. Orange still makes Ukraine PM see red Reuters, 18 September 2007**

Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich apparently still sees red when he sees orange, even though he has bounced back from a humiliating presidential election defeat in the country's 2004 "Orange Revolution".

Yanukovich, leading his Regions Party into parliamentary elections set for Sept 30, was to open a new stretch of road in central Ukraine on Monday, when a senior official ordered workers at the site to remove their fluorescent orange gear.

"Take off those orange overalls!" Kommersant Ukraine daily quoted Volodymyr Demishkan, head of the state roads authority, as telling workers at the scene.

Many workers refused, but another official pleaded with the workers to remove their outfits, saying he would otherwise face dismissal. Eventually they complied.

Yanukovich lost the 2004 presidential election to Viktor Yushchenko after weeks of mass rallies against poll fraud by protesters in orange regalia, now known as the "Orange Revolution".

He returned to head a new government in August last year after a pro-Western "Orange" coalition collapsed. Yanukovich's Regions Party, which leads polls in the current campaign, sports blue and white colours.

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[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/Orange\\_still\\_makes\\_Ukraine\\_PM\\_see\\_red/articleshow/2381910.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/Orange_still_makes_Ukraine_PM_see_red/articleshow/2381910.cms)

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#### **5. NATO and Ukraine: At the crossroads NATO Review , 18 September 2007**

Ukraine finds itself at a crossroads in its relations with NATO. One path could lead to membership and offers Ukraine the prospect of becoming a westward-looking European state, protected against threats to its sovereignty and national security.

The second path may lead Ukraine to renounce its Euro-Atlantic integration aspirations, with less certain outcomes. While a promising start was made on the road to NATO membership in the wake of the Orange Revolution, the process has since slowed due to the political uncertainties in Ukraine that surfaced with the March 2006 parliamentary elections and the formation of a new government.

What is at stake?

NATO membership would be in the Ukrainian strategic interest and also represents a major societal choice. It would provide solid guarantees for the preservation of Ukrainian sovereignty, national identity and territorial integrity, while helping to consolidate and continue Ukraine's democratic reforms. Further progress towards meeting Euro-Atlantic democratic standards would also protect and encourage mainstream and minority cultural development, as well as the evolution of Ukrainian civil society.

The alternative to Euro-Atlantic integration lies in Eurasia with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which is currently characterised by authoritarian or semi-authoritarian regimes, grey economies and marginalised or underdeveloped civil societies. Taking this path would be welcomed

by those who view Ukraine's independence as being counter to Russia's vital geopolitical interests and its efforts to restore its great power status.

Ukraine's interest in Euro-Atlantic integration has led to closer cooperation with the Alliance. However, any future accession of Ukraine to the Alliance will ultimately depend on the ability of the country to meet membership criteria, and on the domestic political will to move forward.

#### Walking the path

The first declaration of Ukraine's intent to increase its integration in Euro-Atlantic structures was made ten years ago in the 1997 NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, which established the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC) and identified areas for consultation and cooperation. However, cooperation with a view to furthering Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration goals was given a sharper focus with the adoption of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan in November 2002.

The Action Plan aims to deepen and broaden the NATO-Ukraine relationship and to support Ukraine's reform efforts on the road towards full integration in Euro-Atlantic structures. It sets out specific objectives, covering political and economic issues; security, defence and military issues; information issues; and legal issues. These objectives are supported by Annual Target Plans in which Ukraine sets its own targets for the activities it intends to pursue both internally and in cooperation with NATO.

The Action Plan itself will not lead directly to membership. However, its successful implementation is regarded as a precursor to an invitation to join NATO's Membership Action Plan, and would help Ukraine move towards meeting the requirements expected of a candidate for NATO membership.

The Orange Revolution brought in under President Viktor Yushchenko a new Ukrainian leadership, which put NATO accession at the top of its foreign policy priorities. This led the Allies to invite Ukraine to start an Intensified Dialogue on its membership aspirations and related reforms at the NUC meeting of foreign ministers in Vilnius, Lithuania, in April 2005. The aim of this dialogue is to give Ukrainian officials the opportunity to learn more about what would be expected of Ukraine as a potential member of the Alliance, while simultaneously letting NATO examine Ukrainian reforms and capabilities.

In parallel with the launch of the Intensified Dialogue, the Ukrainian and Allied foreign ministers agreed a package of short-term actions to help Ukraine in moving the reform process forward. This package covered a range of areas, including strengthening democratic institutions, enhancing political dialogue, intensifying defence and security sector reforms, managing the social and economic consequences of reform, and improving public information.

To improve the internal coordination of Ukraine's implementation of activities agreed in the framework of NATO-Ukraine cooperation, on 27 December 2005 President Viktor Yushchenko signed a decree in which deputy heads of the central executive authorities were assigned specific responsibilities. The president tasked the Cabinet of Ministers to strengthen cooperation between the executive authorities and the parliament, giving priority to relations with NATO and to public promotion of the benefits this cooperation brings to Ukraine.

#### Towards a Membership Action Plan

In January 2006, the defence ministers of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, meeting in Budapest, Hungary, announced that their countries were ready to support Ukraine on its path to NATO accession. Hungarian Defence Minister Ferenc Yukhas stated after the quadrilateral meeting that "we believe it is an important task for us to help Ukraine on its way to integration and accession to NATO." The four countries announced that they would organise a special committee to promote Ukrainian military reform.

A month later, in February 2006, President Viktor Yushchenko reiterated in Brussels, Belgium, that Ukraine was ready to join the Membership Action Plan (MAP). In March, he followed this up with a decree setting up an interagency commission to prepare Ukraine for NATO accession. This body can set up task forces to deal with specific directions of cooperation between Ukraine and NATO, and is chaired by the relevant national coordinators.

The National Security and Defence Council is responsible for defining the strategic goals and conceptual approaches to Ukraine-NATO cooperation and submitting relevant proposals to the President. The Cabinet of Ministers is responsible for implementing the national policy of Ukraine-NATO cooperation, in particular with regard to the fulfilment of membership criteria.

Participation in the MAP would allow Ukraine to prepare better for NATO accession through technical assistance and practical advice from NATO. It would not, however, guarantee any future membership in the Alliance – such an invitation would depend on the country's ability to meet membership criteria. In the MAP framework, Annual National Programmes are developed which focus on a number of requirements for aspirant countries, including in the political, economic, resource, legal and security fields. Aspirant countries are expected to demonstrate a functioning democratic political system based on a market economy; fair treatment of minority populations; commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes with neighbours; the ability and willingness to make a military contribution to the Alliance; and a commitment to democratic civil-military relations and structures.

In March 2006, Ukrainian Defence Minister Anatoliy Grytsenko expressed the opinion that if Ukraine works effectively to meet these requirements, and the Allies agree, "the decision on granting membership to Ukraine could be taken in the nearest future. Ukraine will be granted a transition period to finish its preparatory work, which is about a year and a half or two years... That's why full-fledged membership is possible by 2010, but it is only a forecast. Life may bring changes into it."

Of course, one of the current major hurdles to Ukraine's joining the MAP is significant public reluctance to move further – according to opinion polls, only some 20 per cent of the population actually support NATO membership, whereas some 54 per cent are opposed. Outdated and counterproductive stereotypes about NATO still hold sway over many in Ukraine. However, the Defence Minister also expressed confidence that by the time Ukraine has to make a decision on NATO accession, the public will be ready to support such a step.

#### A change of pace

By holding a free and fair democratic parliamentary election in March 2006, Ukraine successfully passed a key test for NATO membership. So it is ironic that the result of that election has been a significant slow-down in the pace of progress towards that goal.

It took months of political turmoil for a new government to be formed. During this time, anti-NATO sentiments among the population were exploited for political gain, provoking demonstrations against the US-Ukrainian Sea Breeze exercise in the summer of 2006. The "Anti-Crisis Coalition" that eventually emerged, with Viktor Yanukovich as Prime Minister, put the brakes on moves toward NATO membership and made improving relations with Russia a priority.

Visiting NATO Headquarters in September, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich reassured Allies that Ukraine was committed to developing closer relations to NATO through ongoing cooperation. But he said that the Ukrainian people were not yet ready for Ukraine to consider joining the Membership Action Plan and that the issue of membership would eventually have to be put to a referendum. He did, however, promise that the Ukrainian government would launch a major public information campaign to explain NATO and its cooperation with Ukraine.

Meanwhile, President Yuschenko has continued to push for NATO membership. But there is no doubt that under the Anti-Crisis Coalition we have seen not just a change in pace in relations with NATO, but also a change in the language used. Political leaders tend to refer to "cooperation" with NATO rather than to "integration".

Stirring things up further, Russia itself has warned Ukraine of potential costs of joining NATO. During his visit to Kyiv, in December 2006, Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov, while recognising the "sovereign right of Ukraine to choose major vectors of its security policy", warned of the "negative consequences of Ukraine's accession to NATO" on relations with Russia.

Clearly, the political uncertainties in Ukraine over the past year and the ongoing rift between the camps of the President and the Prime Minister have had an impact on the level of cooperation with NATO. This was manifest in the delay in finalising this year's Annual Target Plan, which was only approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and sent to the President for signature in early June.

#### At the crossroads

So Ukraine finds itself at a crossroads in its relations with NATO. The key question is how close the country will get to actual NATO membership. This will largely depend on the ability of the authorities – and society at large – to preserve the gains of the Orange Revolution and to further develop democratic structures and practices in the country.

Time will tell how important basic democratic values are for the Anti-Crisis parliamentary majority. If they really share these values, the time it takes for Ukraine to join NATO will be no longer than the time needed to achieve Euro-Atlantic standards and to reach consensus at the national level.

As Defence Minister Anatoliy Grytsenko stated in an October 2006 interview: "Ukraine has not lost its chance to move forward and join the Alliance... How long it will take, depends, first of all, on the level of coordination of our authorities. Second, it depends on our desire to build a country that meets NATO standards. And third, it depends on the will and determination of key political players in our country to support NATO accession."

For all of this to happen, it is clear that civil society will have to work closely with government, parliament and other relevant political actors. It is also essential that a broad public information campaign should be launched to raise awareness of the benefits of NATO-Ukraine cooperation and potential membership.

There are plenty of good stories to tell about the practical benefits of ongoing cooperation with NATO. Since 1994, NATO and individual Allies have provided professional military training to some 8 500 Ukrainian officers. Moreover, between 2001 and 2006, NATO has supported the retraining of over 3 000 retired Ukrainian military personnel to help their transition to civilian life. In 2006 alone, nearly 800 servicemen were retrained, and 440 have already found new jobs. Since 2006, new professional courses have been launched for former military personnel in Kirovohrad, Melitopol, Chernihiv and Lviv. And language courses are ongoing in Odessa, Kyiv and Simferopol.

Another good example is the support that individual Allies are giving to demilitarisation projects in Ukraine through Partnership for Peace (PfP) Trust Fund projects. These projects are helping Ukraine deal with its huge stockpiles of surplus and obsolete munitions, which pose a major security risk to local populations. A first project, launched in Donetsk in 2002 while Viktor Yanukovych was governor there, safely destroyed 400 000 anti-personnel landmines. A second project – the largest single demilitarisation project of its kind in the world – aims to destroy 133 000 tons of conventional munitions, 1.5 million small arms and light weapons, and 1 000 man-portable air defence systems over twelve years – at a total estimated cost of €25 million.

Highlighting these kinds of initiatives to the Ukrainian public would go some way to overcoming the Cold War stereotypes about NATO that remain prevalent. That may encourage people to learn more about what NATO is today.

Ukraine is likely to remain stuck at the crossroads for a while. With another parliamentary election now scheduled for September, no clarity on the way forward is likely to emerge soon. In this climate, NATO remains a highly politicised issue in Ukraine.

Nevertheless, I remain hopeful that a recent statement by NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer may come true. Speaking at the Munich Security Conference in February 2007, he expressed his desire to see Serbia, Georgia and Ukraine move closer to the Alliance by the time of the NATO Summit in 2009. "The Ukrainian people will have to decide for themselves. Nevertheless, I hope in 2009 we'll see a stronger relationship with Ukraine."

(Professor Grigoriy M. Perepelytsia is Director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute at the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. )

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://www.dtt-net.com/en/index.php?page=view-article&article=2757>

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**6. Commerzbank in \$600m Ukraine buy**  
**By Roman Olearchyk**  
**The Financial Times, 18 September 2007**

Commerzbank is buying a 60 per cent stake in Ukraine's Bank Forum for \$600m, the German group said on Tuesday, the latest in a flurry of purchases by European banks seeking to gain exposure to the former Soviet republic's promising banking market.

Under the agreement, Commerzbank has also secured the option to purchase an additional 25 per cent stake within 36 months. It will finance the deal through existing resources.

"After an intensive search, we have found an ideal complement for our network of operational outlets in the booming region of central and eastern Europe in the form of Bank Forum, the 10th largest bank in Ukraine by total assets," said Martin Blessing, a member of Commerzbank's managing board.

"This represents another step in our strategy of selective acquisitions to grow within our target regions. With approximately 12,000 corporate customers, of which 9,500 are small and medium-sized enterprises, Bank Forum is already making an important contribution to strengthening our Mittelstand business. In addition, we plan to expand Bank Forum's retail customer business considerably in the coming years," Mr Blessing added.

Bank Forum is majority owned by Ukrainian-born Leonid Yurushev and his family. Mr Yurushev, a Greek national, also has investments in Ukrainian real estate development projects and assets in industry.

The bank was founded in 1994 and, after rapid expansion, now has assets totalling the equivalent of €1.4bn and a market share of 2.3 per cent. It plans to increase the number of branches to 400 in the next four years, whilst doubling its market share.

Commerzbank officials said the Ukrainian banking market had seen strong growth in recent years, with bank assets rising at an average rate of more than 50 per cent over the past five years.

Market penetration of banking services in Ukraine remains low, but growth potential is considered high and foreign banks have tripled their presence in the market to about 30 per cent in the past three years.

In July, Bank Austria Creditanstalt, the Austrian subsidiary of Italy's UniCredit, agreed to pay \$2.2bn for Kiev-based UkrSotsbank, one of Ukraine's top five banks in terms of net assets and branch network size.

Other European banks to enter Ukraine recent years have included Austria's Raiffeisen and Erste Bank Groups, France's BNP Paribas and Crédit Agricole, Hungary's OTP Bank and Sweden's Swedbank.

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[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/47326dbc-65d7-11dc-9fbb-0000779fd2ac,dwp\\_uuid=e8477cc4-c820-11db-b0dc-000b5df10621.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/47326dbc-65d7-11dc-9fbb-0000779fd2ac,dwp_uuid=e8477cc4-c820-11db-b0dc-000b5df10621.html)

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**7. Commerzbank Buys 60% Of Ukraine's Bank Forum**  
**By RAGNHILD KJETLAND**  
**The Wall Street Journal, 19 September 2007**

*Stake in Lender Helps German Firm Expand in Eastern Europe*

FRANKFURT -- Commerzbank AG said it bought a 60% stake in Ukraine's privately controlled Bank Forum for \$600 million, in a move to strengthen its position in Central and Eastern Europe.

The German bank also affirmed its earlier outlook over exposure to the risky subprime market and potential charges.

Commerzbank, which has a strong focus on midsize German companies and has made several purchases in Central and Eastern Europe, said it has an option to buy as much as 25% more of Bank Forum after 36 months.

The Ukrainian bank has about 12,000 corporate customers, of which 9,500 are small and midsize businesses. The bank has 230,000 retail customers.

"This represents another step in our strategy of selective acquisitions to grow within our target regions," said Martin Blessing, a Commerzbank board member responsible for banking with midsize firms.

Commerzbank already has a 26% share in the settlement of German-Ukrainian foreign-trade transactions, via its Kiev office. The acquisition makes Commerzbank the first German bank to have an operational presence in Ukraine.

In the past five years, bank assets have grown at an average rate of more than 50% in Ukraine, though market penetration of banking services remains comparatively low, suggesting "significant growth potential," Commerzbank said.

Bank Forum was founded in 1994 and has assets totaling about €1.4 billion (\$1.9 billion), making it the 10th-largest bank in Ukraine. It has a market share of 2.3% and about 230 branches, with that number to be increased to 400 in the next four years.

The transaction will be financed through existing financial resources, Commerzbank said. The stake Commerzbank is purchasing and the additional 25% option are held by Leonid Yurushev and his family. Commerzbank said the deal is subject to the customary regulatory approvals.

Separately, Commerzbank said it is sticking to the forecast it gave in July regarding its subprime-market exposure and projected charges, a spokesman said yesterday in response to media reports that its exposure could be higher than expected.

Commerzbank said in July that its exposure to subprime amounted to €1.2 billion, for which it would take an €80 million charge, half in the second quarter and the rest in the third quarter. Releasing second-quarter results in August, Chief Financial Officer Eric Strutz said "subprime is not a major issue for Commerzbank."

He also said the bank is monitoring markets carefully and that it is prepared for any developments. "I don't want to underestimate the subprime crisis, but we don't think it will stop us from continuing on our profitable path," Mr. Strutz said.

Investors are getting increasingly concerned that banks will reveal higher exposure to subprime than previously estimated with the release of third-quarter results.

Commerzbank shares rose 1.8% to €27.39 in Frankfurt trading.

**8. CIS: Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan Cities Among World's Dirtiest**  
**By Antoine Blua**  
**RFE/RL, 18 September 2007**

A recent report puts cities in Russia, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan on a list of the 10 most polluted places in the world.

Six other cities in Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan made the "Dirty 30" list by the New York-based Blacksmith Institute, an independent environmental group.

The authors of the lists say these sites are putting millions of people at risk. They say simple engineering projects could make many of the places safe, but that money and political will are often lacking

One of the top 10 is Dzerzhinsk, a significant center of Russian chemical manufacturing for decades, including chemical weapons. According to official figures, almost 300,000 tons of chemical waste were improperly disposed of in and around the western Russian city until 1998.

The Blacksmith institute says drinking water supplies in the city of Nizhny Novgorod and adjoining villages are now heavily contaminated with pollutants because of the pollution at Dzerzhinsk.

**Scant Clean-up**

The institute's Meredith Block tells RFE/RL that a number of other sites across the former Soviet Union pose similar threats to human health. "These are places where you had a lot of industrial activities but no regulations," she says. "The proper technology had not been implemented at the time these factories were running and since a lot of them have been closed down and operations have ceased there has been little effort made to actually clean up the legacy contamination left over in these sites."

Blacksmith's top 10 list also includes the Siberian city of Norilsk, which hosts the largest heavy-metal smelting complex in the world; Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear power plant, where the world's worst nuclear disaster took place in 1986; and Azerbaijan's industrial center of Sumgayit.

Two cities in both India and China, as well as one each in Peru and Zambia, complete the top 10 list.

**The 'Dirty 30'**

Another feature of the institute's annual report is the "Dirty 30," a more comprehensive group of polluted locations.

Ust-Kamenogorsk (Ost Kamensk in Russian), the capital of Kazakhstan's East Kazakhstan region, is one of them.

The report says extensive industrial operations for over 50 years under poor environmental standards have led to widespread pollution and hazardous waste deposits.

Zhalipbai Dostai, a professor of geography and an environmental activist in Almaty, tells RFE/RL that air pollution remains at a very high level, although industrial production has been somewhat reduced in Ust-Kamenogorsk in recent years.

"Nonferrous metals, ferrous metals, all those industries are concentrated in Ost-Kamensk," he says. "It affects the air, soil, water. The air is contaminated with heavy metals and other sorts of metals. The major problem is the concentration of industrial facilities." In neighboring Kyrgyzstan, the town of Maily-Suu in the Jalal-Abad region was home to a former Soviet uranium-ore mining and processing complex. What remains now are nearly 2 million cubic meters of radioactive mining waste.

Maily-Suu's mayor, Bumairam Mamaseyitova tells RFE/RL that the inclusion of her town in the "Dirty 30" list is no surprise. "The installations to clean [uranium waste] were built in 1947," she says. "It makes 60 years up to now. Within these 60 years, there was no single major repair [of the cleaning system]. The same with the [water-inlet system]. It was built 60 years ago. In the [town's] water-inlet system, the water pipes also have not been subject to any major repairs in the past 60 years."

The report says millions of people inhabiting the Ferghana Valley are potentially at risk due to seismic activity in the area.

Some material from the piles of wastes are already being transferred to surrounding areas by runoff, affecting the local population. A 1999 study showed that twice as many residents suffered from some form of cancer in Maily-Suu than in the rest of the country.

Projects supported by the international community and institutions to help Maily-Suu are slated to be completed by 2009. But Kyrgyz officials assert that more funds would be needed to complete the work.

#### A Matter Of Money, Will

Block says it's not only the responsibility of the countries where the pollution exists to clean up polluted sites. She says the international community has the technology and the engineering expertise to deal with pollution problems.

"Similar problems with these grave consequences [for the health of people] have been dealt with in the United States and in Western Europe in the past 20 or 30 years," she says. "So we have the experience, we know exactly what needs to be done. We just need the money and the political will of the international community."

Kazakh environmental writer Bakhtyar Albani says it's both the polluters' responsibility and the countries where the pollution is occurring to pay more attention to their environment. "All industrial facilities in [Ust-Kamenogorsk] don't pay any attention to the ecology," he says. "Their industrial liquids and gas waste should be controlled properly. The owners of the facilities and plants are reluctant to spend money for that. As a result, we have the situation we have now. The situation is even worse than it was during the Soviet Union."

The "Dirty 30" list includes four other sites in Russia: the western city of Magnitogorsk, the Siberian city of Bratsk, the Far Eastern towns of Dalnegorsk and Rudnaya Pristan, and the Siberian region of Chita.

The Blacksmith Institute says the list is based on scoring criteria devised by an international group of experts and leaders of major international environmental remediation companies.

Sixteen of the "Dirty 30" cities are in either Russia, China, or India.

(RFE/RL's Kazakh and Kyrgyz services contributed to this report)

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<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/9/B6BEE283-287B-44DA-918F-AE886D130F33.html>

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**9. A constructive summit. The European Union believes in its relations with Ukraine**  
**By Mykola SIRUK,**  
**The Day, 18 September 2007**

The 11th EU-Ukraine summit was not a breakthrough in Kyiv's relations with Brussels. Rather, it had more of a political significance. The participants of the summit called it a constructive and successful one. The annual meeting of high-ranking officials in the atmosphere of the impending parliamentary elections did not even represent a further step, as happened in Helsinki, where visa facilitation and readmission agreements were initiated. This time, only a joint statement about progress in the negotiation process concerning a new enhanced agreement between the EU and Ukraine, and a joint report on progress in the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Memorandum on Cooperation in the energy sphere were signed.

Nonetheless, it was very important for Ukraine, which is experiencing a political and constitutional crisis and hoping to resolve it with the help of early elections, to host this summit. Until the last moment no one was sure that the summit would take place in Kyiv and that all the EU leaders would arrive.

Therefore, the very fact that the summit took place may be considered proof that the European Union attaches great importance to Ukraine. The top representatives of the European Union gave a high assessment to the summit. Prime Minister Jose Socrates of Portugal, whose country holds the EU Presidency, underlined that the Kyiv summit was a constructive and successful one. Hosting the summit has a political significance for the EU, and Brussels has thus expressed its confidence in Ukraine and its ability to introduce constitutional clarity after the elections, said the head of the Portuguese government.

Socrates also expressed the hope that Ukraine will be successful in holding transparent and fair elections. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso emphasized that the summit took place at a significant moment for Ukraine, two weeks before the elections. He also expressed his belief that the elections will be held in keeping with international criteria of free and transparent elections. The EU will be able to continue its cooperation with Ukraine in order to assist Ukraine in consolidating and strengthening its progress so that it can focus its efforts on economic and political reforms, Barroso said.

"We are here as partners and friends and we believe in Ukraine's great future," the European Commission president stressed. Relations between Kyiv and Brussels are becoming stronger every day, and their quality is secured by a number of EU-Ukraine agreements. Barroso also said that the switch to a higher stage of relations in the Free Trade Area depends on how soon Ukraine joins the WTO. He expressed the hope that this will happen soon, adding that the EU is looking forward to the implementation of the visa facilitation agreement, signed in June this year.

Javier Solana, the EU High Representative on questions of common foreign and security policy, underlined that the holding of the Kyiv summit on schedule proves that the European Union believes in its relations with Ukraine. He also believes that Ukraine will be able to hold the elections and form a new government. At the same time Solana acknowledged that during this year's summit both sides made strong advances on the path to preparing the EU-Ukraine Enhanced Agreement. "Today's level of relations between Brussels and Kyiv is a much strengthened level of relations, and we appreciate Ukraine's role," Solana stressed.

On his part, Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko thanked the European Union on behalf of the Ukrainian state and nation "for its correct and sensitive attitude at a time when Ukraine was overcoming the parliamentary crisis, when all democratic forces were involved in seeking a democratic way of resolving the parliamentary conflict."

"We felt that deep, consistent, and open democratic position taken by the European Union towards the democratic way of managing the parliamentary crisis," he added. The president gave his assurances that Ukraine will hold the early elections "exclusively on the basis of Ukrainian and international democratic traditions according to the legal rules." He expressed his belief that the elections are the

“basis for regulating parliament’s political instability, which Ukraine has been experiencing in the last few years.”

“This is a good basis for overcoming the constitutional instability that was caused by the deficient reform of 2004. We will withstand all these trials with the help of a political dialogue with our partners in the European Parliament,” Yushchenko added. Commenting on the course of the negotiations during the summit, the president noted that “within the framework of the negotiations the main emphasis was made on the future enhanced agreement between Ukraine and the EU.”

### **What is the significance of this year’s Ukraine-EU summit for our country?**

#### **COMMENTARIES**

##### **Hryhorii NEMYRIA, head of the Center of European and International Research:**

“By its very definition the summit could not be a breakthrough summit. Instead, it had a rather symbolic meaning, as evidence of the European Union’s view that Ukraine is steadfast on its path to consolidating democracy and is capable of holding the elections in a transparent and fair way, thereby continuing the negotiations to establish the new, enhanced agreement. Javier Solana talked about this during his meeting with Yulia Tymoshenko. He frankly said that for a time the question was whether to hold the summit during the elections. But the fact that the summit took place and that the European leaders came to Kyiv is proof of its symbolic meaning. Secondly, I think it is important that the meeting with Tymoshenko took place during the summit, since it proves that the EU is considering the various elements of the Ukrainian political palette. I would also like to note that we discussed these questions in the BYuT’s program entitled ‘Seven points of Our Vision of Ukraine-EU Relations.’”

##### **Arkadii MOSHES , expert at the Finnish Institute of International Relations:**

“First, the very fact that the summit was held on the eve of the elections emphasizes the European Union’s confidence that, despite the elections’ results, the consistency of Ukraine’s course towards the European choice and cooperation with the European Union will remain. This is important in principle, as is the fact that the European bureaucracy did not introduce any correctives to the summit schedule and used its resources for the preparation of the summit. This is a positive sign proving that, despite all the political reversals of circumstances within the country, its normal cooperation with the European Union continues.

“Second, I think that one should pay attention to the level of the EU representatives. It was rather high. This is also evidence of the European side’s wish to emphasize the importance of its cooperation with Ukraine at the moment. I guess that all this is not accidental because the European Union is at the stage where it is really trying to prove to everybody its capacity for implementing reform and effecting a real transformation in neighboring countries without offering a membership prospect. And, paradoxically, this wish of the European Union enables it to take real steps in its frankness to solve any problems to a greater degree than before. In the past the European Union viewed all these matters from a rather egotistical position. It tried to obtain the maximum from neighboring countries, reminding them of the necessity to do their homework, without being open in response. In my opinion, the situation is changing somewhat today and the European Union is more willing to achieve results, not simply to confine itself to declarations. Therefore, one starts to consider such summits in a somewhat different way and to attach more importance to them.

“In commenting on Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich’s statement on the eve of the summit that EU-Ukraine relations are worsening, and responding to the question whether this is the real state of affairs or the prime minister is playing some sort of game, I think that there is no worsening of relations. There several very complex problems. But I do not exclude the possibility that Yanukovich is trying to unburden himself of responsibility for potential problems that are emerging; probably in response to criticism of the Cabinet of Ministers, which has arisen, for example, from the insufficiently rapid rate of Ukraine’s accession to the WTO. The opposition should criticize the government for that, and it is doing this. Therefore, there is more advantage for him in raising this subject by himself. But in general, I think that relations with the EU are an area of great competition between Yanukovich and

Yushchenko, because the one associated with the European course of Ukraine will win within the country and abroad, in the European Union, because the positive attitude in the country, including Ukraine's east, to mending relations with Europe remains on a high level. It is advantageous to look like an integrator here, and it is bad to look like a man who has spoiled the work in this direction."

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://www.day.kiev.ua/186730/>

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#### **10. Yatseniuk comments on foreign-policy bloc's objectives ForUm, 18 September 2007**

"One of the main objectives for us is rationalization of the foreign policy", - top member of the "OU – PSD" Bloc Arseny Yatsenyuk said in the air of "1+1" channel.

"Ukraine needs new markets. Our participation in international economic organizations, as the WTO, and – in the course of the foreign policy's rationalization – anti-dumping procedures will promote receiving them," he stressed, according to "OU-PSD" press office.

"The other key point is an international dialogue, political and social contacts. Ukraine's being a full member of influential international organizations is also important. We are participants of globalization process, therefore we have to answer such challenges and threats as terrorism, nuclear weapons spreading and drug traffic," he said.

According to Yatseniuk, the Bloc's objectives in foreign policy sector are entering the WTO and free trade area with the EU, and introducing institute of diplomatic advisers in all economic institutions of Ukraine.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2007/09/18/132009.html>

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#### **11. Yanukovych will not permit officials to enrich themselves at the expense of people ForUm, 19 September 2007**

Prime Minister of Ukraine, leader of the Party of Regions Viktor Yanukovych proposes to forbid the buyup of land by big corporations. Yanukovych stated on air on "Vynnychna" TV channel.

"It is necessary to adopt such laws, which will prohibit the buyup of land by big corporations, both domestic and foreign corporations," the PM noted.

According to Yanukovych, during the land reform, officials shouldn't sell land, because this process should be under the control of the society.

"We shouldn't permit officials to enrich themselves at the expense of people," he added.

Yanukovych thinks that the society should devote much attention to the question on land sale.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2007/09/19/111830.html>

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**12. CVU slams referendum chitchat  
by Dariya Orlova  
Kyiv Post, 12 September 2007**

Possible plebiscites proved to be hot political potatoes in the past week, with the Party of Regions throwing their hat into the referendum ring.

Along with referendum initiatives being championed by opposition and pro-presidential political forces, the country appears to be in store for direct democracy, which will see Ukrainians go to the polls – again and again.

But before any referendum gets off the ground, the laws regulating plebiscites need to be updated from 1991 – the year Ukrainians overwhelmingly voted for independence.

**Issues that divide**

The Regions party last week announced plans to initiate a national referendum on issues that traditionally divide Ukrainians, but are not major concerns of voters, according to polls.

The three questions include: Do you agree that Ukrainian and Russian should be a state language of Ukraine? Do you agree that heads of district and oblast (regional) administrations should be elected by citizens of Ukraine? Do you agree that Ukraine should not be a member of any military blocs?

Borys Kolesnikov, the head of Party of Regions' campaign headquarters, said that at least 9 million signatures in support of the referendum will be collected – triple the 3 million required to initiate the plebiscite process. He said that the petition would be gathered over two months' time.

Ukraine's pro-Western president, Viktor Yushchenko, condemned the initiative as political adventurism lies.

"I am surprised that the Party of Regions takes this stand. Evidently, these people do not share aspirations to stabilize the political situation in Ukraine and take steps incompatible with political peace," said Yushchenko, who wants Ukraine to join NATO.

Kolesnikov stressed that Regions has never backed down from its party platform to push for granting Russian official status as a state language, or its view that Ukraine should avoid joining NATO.

**Risk to national integrity**

On Sept. 10, the election watchdog Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU) called on political parties and blocs "to put off language and NATO referendums until the political situation in the country has stabilized to consolidate society" and preserve territorial integrity.

Ihor Popov, CVU head, said that the Regions referendum is "more of an element of the pre-election campaign than serious intentions."

Kolesnikov denied that the future referendum is tied to the Sept. 30 election.

"The only convenience of collecting signatures now is that we have a well-established campaign network. Around 5,000 people are working at the rallies and they will collect signatures much faster than possible at any other time," he said in a Sept. 10 interview on Radio Svoboda.

**Anti-NATO referendum**

The NGO head recalled the 2005-2006 referendum initiative that was part of last year's failed election campaign of the "Ne Tak!" anti-Yushchenko bloc built around the political party led by late Kuchma-era presidential administration chief Viktor Medvedchuk and former President Leonid Kravchuk.

Over several months, 100 groups collected 4.6 million signatures in support of a referendum that would let voters decide if Ukraine joins NATO and/or the competing Single Economic Space with Russia.

Serhii Kalchenko, electoral law expert and attorney at the Moor & Krosyndovych law firm, said that in strictly legal terms, the Ne Tak referendum still has a chance of being held.

“The Central Election Commission performed its function and passed the ball to the president. It is a different matter that the president has kept the ball for quite a long time,” he said.

According to Popov, Yushchenko has agreed with political opponents not to raise the issue, which, nonetheless, can be raised at politically opportune times.

### **Constitutional referendum**

Opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, meanwhile, told journalists in Cherkassy Region on Sept. 11 that the political force bearing her name has already collected 3 million signatures for a referendum on several constitutional issues, including the republic's political regime, cancellation of immunity from prosecution and privileges – causes that have been also championed by Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense.

She said that a decision was made to collect nearly 8 million signatures “to be absolutely convinced that such a referendum is required and that the referendum must be the basis for developing a new Constitution,” she said.

Tymoshenko said that the referendum would be held soon after the elections if not on Sept. 30.

Yushchenko has indicated that constitutional issues that were changed by political reforms, which came into force last year, should be subject to nationwide approval, but has not specified dates for the potential plebiscite.

### **Issues that unite**

Ukrainians have voted on changing the country's Constitution in the past.

In April of 2000, Ukrainians went to the polls to vote on four constitutional issues that included immunity from prosecution for parliamentarians.

Eighty-nine percent supported its cancellation. Eighty-four percent supported granting the president powers to dismiss the legislature if it was not able to create a functioning majority or adopt a state budget in three months' time.

More than 80 percent supported reducing the number of elected deputies to 300 from 450 and creating a bicameral parliament, with one of the houses “representing Ukraine's regions.”

Formally, President Leonid Kuchma abided by the rules for referendums, but the initiative was thwarted by parliament, which failed to change the Constitution to reflect the referendum results, Kalchenko said.

### **Legal hurdles**

Popov said that there is little chance of holding any referendum in the near future because laws regulating plebiscites require revision for them to move forward. The law on referendums dates back to 2001 and contains provisions considered to be unconstitutional.

“The legal procedure of a referendum initiative has so many tricky moments and stages that it can be snatched off at any stage,” said Popov.

Kalchenko also said that changing the legal framework for conducting referendums in Ukraine can last anywhere from a few days to a few months. Much depends on election results and the will to pursue referendum campaigns after Sept. 30.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://www.kyivpost.com/nation/27374/>

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### **13. BYuT and NU-NS to Ignore Moroz's Session Interfax-Ukraine, 12 September 2007**

MPs of the fifth convocation of Our Ukraine (NU) and Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (BYuT) will not participate in extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada on September 20.

On Tuesday Mykhaylo Pozhyvanyuk, the candidate for BYuT MP, said that the BYuT does not intend to participate in the parliament session.

"Today the Verkhovna Rada is illegitimate," said Mr. Pozhyvanov. In addition, he said that an attempt to hold an extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada is just a usage of budgeting funds "for PR of the communists, socialists and Party of Regions."

Mr. Pozhyvanov also reported that he had overviewed the draft budget 2008. In his opinion, according to the document it is predicted to increase the financing of MPs activity. "They say one thing, and do the opposite," he said.

In his turn, Mykola Onishchuk, the deputy head of Our Ukraine—People's Self-Defense Bloc (NU-NS) electoral headquarters, stressed that the faction "would not participate in the session for sure".

According to him, the MPs will not come to the session for two reasons: on the first hand – the Verkhovna Rada is illegitimate and the early parliamentary election will be held in ten days, and on the second hand – NU faction ceased to exist in the Verkhovna Rada of the fifth convocation.

Mr. Onishchuk also added that NU faction MPs would not participate in the Verkhovna Rada extraordinary session, as they do not recognize the legitimacy of the parliament.

In addition, Mr. Onishchuk stressed that the session would not have any legal consequences.

Permanent Link: <http://www.pravda.com.ua/en/news/2007/9/18/8919.htm>

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### **14. Akhmetov Will Have His Own 'Vote Count' on September 30 Ukrayinska Pravda, 18 September 2007**

Sociologists will conduct two exit polls on September 30.

One will be paid for by embassies; however, presently there are no sponsors for holding the other, reports Delo newspaper.

On September 30 Ukrainians will be polled at the polling station exits by two sociological companies: National exit poll 2007 consortium which is sponsored by nine foreign embassies and funds and also Research & Branding Group company, the establishments of Rynat Akhmetov being its major customers.

According to previous reports, two research projects will cost a quarter of a million dollars to sponsors and customers.

"The decision on holding an exit poll was reached by our company on September 13, there are no sponsors for it yet," informed Research & Branding Group director Eduard Zolotukhin.

According to him, 10 thousand voters at 500 precincts will be polled. The sociologists could not name the cost of research. According to Delo, it will amount to approximately 120 thousand dollars.

National exit poll 2007 consortium, which consists of Democratic Initiatives Fund, Kyiv international sociology institute and the Ukrainian Centre for Economic and Political Studies named after Oleksandr Razumkov, will spend about 130 thousand dollars for the poll.

"This sum includes both the cost of polling and the expenses for accompanying informational campaign," explains Democratic Initiatives Fund director Ilko Kucheriv.

Nine foreign embassies and funds have already agreed to finance the poll and negotiations are carried out with several more.

National exit poll 2007 consortium plans to poll 20 thousand respondents at 300 voting precincts.

According to Delo, during the parliamentary elections of 2006 National exit poll and Research & Branding Group together with the Russian centre of public opinion studies provided results differing from the CEC data no more than by 1 per cent, even though the research projects were financed from different sources.

At the same time, political scientist Sergiy Taran assumes that parties and blocs might venture to falsify the exit poll results.

"If the party headquarters find out which voting precincts will participate in polls they might intentionally launch 'carrousel' to distort poll results," forecasts the expert.

In the opinion of the head of Ukrainian barometer sociological service Viktor Nebozhenko, falsified results will let small parties speculate on allegedly dishonest vote count.

Permanent Link: <http://www.pravda.com.ua/en/news/2007/9/18/8908.htm>

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## **15. Lutsenko Supports a Strong President Ukrayinska Pravda, 18 September 2007**

Our Ukraine – People' Self-Defense (NU-NS) bloc head Yuriy Lutsenko supports strengthening the President's authority in the system of state branches of power.

"I have been considering both a parliamentary theory of Speaker Moroz and a reasonable presidential idea of Mr. Yushchenko. Now, I am closer to the latter," he was cited as saying by the bloc's press service.

"The thing is that Mr. Moroz's ideas brought about disorder and irresponsibility in the Rada turned into a marketplace," Mr. Lutsenko explained.

"Imagining the theory in practice throughout the state, it means launching numerous kolkhozs," he added.

Mr. Lutsenko is sure that 'the President should have a strong hierarchy system behind him so that he is able to balance with party interests at any level of government'.

"The hierarchy should not be so strong as to return Mr. Kuchma's time. But there should be prefects – officials charged with implementing state policy with regard to citizens' interests voiced by a body of their representation," stressed the NU-NS leader.

**16. Constitutional Court Launches Consideration Of Constitutionality Of Absentee Ballot Use At Rada Elections  
Ukrainian News Agency, 19 September 2007**

On Wednesday, September 19, the Constitutional Court launched consideration of appeal by 54 deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of the fifth convocation on constitutionality of use of absentee ballots at the early Verkhovna Rada elections on September 30.

The meeting started at 10:00 am.

A total of 14 Constitutional Court judges take part in the meeting.

According to the appeal, the deputies ask the Constitutional Court to declare as unconstitutional certain provisions of the Ukrainian law «On election of Ukrainian people's deputies.»

In particular, the deputies consider as unconstitutional the following provisions of sections 5, 6, 7, article 43 of the abovementioned law, which fix terms of citizen's right to appeal against mistakes made during making the voters list, including non-inclusion, inappropriate inclusion or exclusion of people from the voters list, and also presence of remarks on inability of voters to come to election stations by themselves.

According to the deputies, the terms limit election right of citizens, who fail to get acquainted with the voters list five, three or two days before the elections, and in this are deprived of right to appeal if there fewer than five, three or two days before the elections.

The deputies say that non-inclusion of citizens into the voters list means their factual deprival of the right to take part in the elections.

The deputies also consider as unconstitutional section 7, article 102 of the law, which fixes that absentee ballots are not used and produced during holding of the early Verkhovna Rada elections.

As Ukrainian News earlier reported, on August 2, the law specifying the procedure of holding early Verkhovna Rada elections took effect.

The law introduces innovations such as ban of absentee ballot during the voting, elements of state register of voters during formation of the lists.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://www.ukranews.com/eng/article/67099.html>

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**17. Katerynchuk Favors Return To Majority Or Mixed Election System For Rada Vote  
Ukrainian News Agency, 19 September 2007**

Deputy head of the Our Ukraine People's Self-Defense "Bloc election headquarters Mykola Katerynchuk is in favor of getting back to the majority election system or a combination of this and the system of open lists at the Verkhovna Rada.

Katerynchuk made this statement at a press conference in Vinnytsia.

"We suggest changing the election system by getting back either to the majority system or the system mixed with open lists when voters themselves decide who should represent their interests in parliament rather than the leadership of political parties," he said.

In his opinion, this will help society achieve an efficient instrument of control over the authorities.

"No power, unless it is controlled by the people, is effective in solution of societal problems," Katerynchuk said.

He also reported the ineffectiveness of the proportional election system.

"The proportional election system has not justified itself and I think it has made a big step back from Ukraine's democratic development," he said.

As Ukrainian News earlier reported, Our Ukraine People's Self-Defense Bloc leader Yuri Lutsenko supports the idea of nomination of candidates to the Verkhovna Rada by political parties in majority constituencies.

The system of parties' lists has been used for the first time during the 2006 parliamentary elections.

According to the Law on Elections of Deputies of the Crimean Supreme Council, Local Councils, as well as Rural, Village, and Local Heads, elections of parliamentary deputies, deputies of municipal, municipal district, regional district, and regional councils, and deputies of the Kyiv and Sevastopol municipal councils, and the Crimean Supreme Council are to be conducted on the basis of the proportional representation system: elections of deputies into municipal, district, and regional councils, as well as into the Kyiv and Sevastopol municipal councils and the Crimea Supreme Council are to be held via a proportional system: deputies are to be elected from the lists of candidates of political parties and coalitions in multi-mandate constituencies with borders coinciding with the borders of the relevant local community.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://www.ukranews.com/eng/article/67021.html>

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#### **18. Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense Bloc Reports Attack On Head Of Its District Campaign Headquarters In Luhansk Ukrainian News Agency, 17 September 2007**

The Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc has reported an attack on Svitlana Trachuk, the head of its Artemivsk district election campaign headquarters (Luhansk).

The press service of the bloc announced this to Ukrainian News.

According to the press service, five unidentified armed people broke into the family home of Trachuk at about 20:00 on September 13.

«Svitlana Trachuk's children were at home at the time. The unidentified people used physical violence against them. After this, they searched the residential premises and seized documents containing lists of the activists of the Artemivsk district chapter of the Our Ukraine People's Union party, their telephone numbers, and lists of members of [election] commissions from the Our Ukraine People's Union party as well as other documents,» the press service said.

Trachuk herself told Ukrainian News that the attackers placed sacks on the heads of the children and took them to the boiler room while they themselves searched the house.

«My husband and I were in Kyiv at the time, the attackers did not take money or valuables, they did not touch our safe. They took only documents related to the headquarters and destroyed the bloc's leaflets that were kept in the garage. That means that they had political motives. Moreover, I had a conflict with a representative of the Party of the Regions,» Trachuk said.

Officers at the Luhansk Regional Police Department have confirmed the attack.

As Ukrainian News earlier reported, the Luhansk Regional Police Department registered two attacks on the heads of local election campaign headquarters of the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc in Krasnodon and the Melovsk district in August.

Campaigning in the early parliamentary elections started on August 2; voting is scheduled for September 30.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://www.ukranews.com/eng/article/66723.html>

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**19. Lazarenko Eighth Of Most Corrupted World Leaders In Rating By World Bank And United Nations  
Ukrainian News Agency, 18 September 2007**

Ex-Prime Minister, leader of the Hromada All-Ukrainian Association, Pavlo Lazarenko is eighth in the rating of the most corrupted world leaders compiled by the World Bank and the United Nations organization.

This follows from a statement by the World Bank.

According to the rating authors, when being Premier in 1996-1997 Lazarenko stole USD 114-200 million from the state budget, this makes up 0.2-0.4% of the country's GDP.

Former Indonesian leader Mohammed Suharto tops the rating (stole USD 15-35 billion), he is tailed by Ex-President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos (USD 5-10 billion), ex-leaders of Zair Mobutu Sese Seko (USD 5 billion), of Nigeria Sani Abacha (USD 2-5 billion), of Yugoslavia Slobodan Milosevic (USD 1 billion), of Haiti Jean-Claude Duvalier (USD 300-800 million), of Peru Alberto Fujimori (USD 600 million).

As Ukrainian News earlier reported, Lazarenko was accused of laundering USD 114 million through American banks.

Lazarenko was detained in the United States in March 1999. He was released on bail on June 14, 2003.

The San Francisco District Court sentenced Lazarenko to 108 months in jail and fined him USD 10 million on August 25, 2006 for money laundering and sale of illegally acquired property abroad when he was Ukraine's Prime Minister.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://www.ukranews.com/eng/article/66847.html>

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**20. President slams government over grain policy  
Ukrainian Observer Online, 18 September 2007**

SHPOLA, Cherkasy Region, Sept. 18 – During a meeting with grain traders, farmers and agricultural officials on Tuesday at Shpola in Ukraine's Cherkasy region, President Viktor Yushchenko said the government "constantly interferes" in the agricultural sector. He called many of its grain policies "remarkably absurd and negative," and he reprimanded the cabinet of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych for using non-market methods.

Yushchenko said the current state of the grain market would lead Ukraine in only one direction. "The situation will get worse every year if we fail to resolve the key problems in its organization now."

Referring to the government's grain management actions that have kept huge amounts of grain out of profitable foreign markets, the president said, "These administrative and restrictive measures are neither professional nor responsible." He added that the cabinet's attempts to regulate grain prices were reminiscent of the Soviet times "15 years ago, when grain trading was under a separate ministry and the nation was fed because of the dumping grain prices."

Yushchenko went on to describe the government's current policy, which emphasizes cheap bread over normal market operations as "ungifted." This policy "deprives millions of those who live and work in villages of their opportunities." A state that does not promote commercial interests in agriculture often has to import grain, he said. "I want those who want to keep our grain in Odesa's ports to understand this. This policy leads nowhere."

As a part of the meeting, Yushchenko signed a decree on development of the national grain market. In spite of the current difficulties that the president blamed primarily on government maladministration, Yushchenko said he is optimistic about the future of the country's grain market. "Wheat for Ukraine is like oil for Russia. I see it as the nation's strategic course," he said.

The president said in his decree the government must liberalize the grain market and regulate it in a transparent, public and predictable manner. He calls government interference unacceptable, stressing the need to hold consultations with grain traders and farmers before regulating grain prices and to develop loan, insurance and other mechanisms to support farmers. He also said the cabinet must ensure there is enough food in its reserves to guarantee the country's food security.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://www.ukraine-observer.com/>

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## **21. Ukraine plans to double nuclear energy production by 2030** **RIA Novosti, 18 September 2007**

Ukraine plans to double its volume of nuclear energy output by 2030, President Viktor Yushchenko said Tuesday, commenting on a joint Russian and U.S. initiative in the sphere of nuclear energy.

In early July, the Russian and U.S. presidents said they were ready to start bilateral and multilateral talks on access to civilian nuclear energy for countries complying with their non-proliferation obligations.

"By the year 2030 we plan to double the production of electricity at [Ukrainian] nuclear power plants," said Bohdan Sokolovskiy, a presidential advisor, citing President Yushchenko. "The implementation of such an ambitious national strategy requires the participation of our country in international programs."

He also said that President Yushchenko believes that the Russian and American initiative to enhance cooperation in the sphere of nuclear energy and non-proliferation is an "up-to-date and very relevant" initiative.

In a joint statement adopted following informal talks at the American president's summer residence at Kennebunkport July 1-2, Vladimir Putin and George W. Bush reiterated an approach they said would give access to the benefits of nuclear energy to a growing number of interested countries, while also preventing them from building nuclear weapons.

Their initiatives also envision financial aid for building nuclear power plants, advice on spent fuel storage, and contain obligations to ensure uninterrupted fuel supplies and other commitments.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:  
<http://en.rian.ru/world/20070918/79324633.html>

**22. No Orange for Yanukovich**  
**Reuters, 18 September 2007**

Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich apparently still sees red when he sees orange.

Yanukovich was to open a new stretch of road in central Ukraine on Monday when a senior official ordered workers at the site to remove their fluorescent orange gear.

Orange is the campaign color of Yanukovich's rival, President Viktor Yushchenko, who swept to power in the Orange Revolution.

"Take off those orange overalls!" Volodymyr Demishkan, head of the state roads authority, told workers at the scene, Kommersant Ukraine reported. Many workers refused, but another official pleaded with the workers to remove their outfits, saying he would otherwise face dismissal. Eventually they complied. (*Reuters*)

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

[http://www.themoscowtimes.com/cgi-bin/search?words=Ukraine&type=and&author=&ord=date&restr=0&start\\_day=20&start\\_month=08&start\\_year=2007&end\\_day=19&end\\_month=09&end\\_year=2007&fr=no&submit=Search](http://www.themoscowtimes.com/cgi-bin/search?words=Ukraine&type=and&author=&ord=date&restr=0&start_day=20&start_month=08&start_year=2007&end_day=19&end_month=09&end_year=2007&fr=no&submit=Search)

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