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**1. Ukraine: Last opinion polls before the election
EastWeek, issue 32 (97), 19 September 2007**

On 14 and 15 September, Ukrainian agencies published the last opinion polls before the election (no polls may be published as of 16 September). The results indicate that three groups, the Party of Regions, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the bloc of Our Ukraine-People's Self-defence, are certain to make it to the parliament, and that two further groups (the Lytvyn bloc and the Communists) are likely to gain seats as well. Both the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine and the Socialist Party of Ukraine also still have chances of winning seats.

According to the polls, presented by authoritative sociological institutes, between 30–35% of people intending to participate in the election want to vote for the Party of Regions, 20–25% for the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, and 10–13% for the bloc of Our Ukraine-People's Self-defence. The percentage differences between these groups are similar in all polls. Lytvyn's bloc may count on 2–3% of the votes, and the Communists 1-5%. The electoral threshold is 3% and the margin of error +/-2%.

The results resemble the voters' preferences from early September, which saw the initial phase of the election campaign. The experience of previous campaigns shows that support for the Communists and the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine is usually underestimated. <TAO>

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.osw.waw.pl/>

2. Ukraine on the introduction of visa charges by Poland EASTWEEK, issue 32 (97), 19 September 2007

As of 1 December, Ukrainian nationals will pay €35 for an entry visa to Poland. This decision was taken following Polish-Ukrainian visa consultations held in Kyiv on 11–12 September, in connection with Poland's accession to the Schengen zone. Official reactions and press comments about the decision have kept to a moderate tone. However, when the projected visa charges are actually implemented, critical reactions from the Ukrainian media and the wider public should be expected.

Ukrainian officials seem to be following a tactic of publicly playing down the consequences that the new EU member states' accession to the Schengen zone will have for the Ukrainian people. The Ukrainian press has widely quoted statements by Polish officials stating that when implementing the Schengen rules, Poland will strive to adopt solutions that will be most favourable for the Ukrainian side. Officials in the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasise that they have managed to postpone the introduction of visa charges for one month (originally the charges were to be introduced as of 1 November), and point to the plans to sign an agreement on small cross-border traffic, as well as efforts to obtain Poland's assurances concerning a wide application of the provisions for long-term national visas. In this context, the actual implementation of the Schengen *acquis* on Poland's border with Ukraine may come as a surprise for some Ukrainians. <mja>

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.osw.waw.pl/>

3. Oligarchs loom over Ukraine polls By Roman Olearchyk and Stefan Wagstyl Financial Times, 21 September 2007

At the recent convention of Ukraine's Regions party, the man at the centre of attention was not Viktor Yanukovich, prime minister and party leader, but Rinat Akhmetov, the country's richest man.

Sitting in the front row, two seats from Mr Yanukovich, he attracted the biggest crowds of journalists, politicians and cameramen.

Meanwhile, Yulia Tymoshenko, the leader of the rival Bloc Yulia Tymoshenko, has been seen on the campaign trail riding in a helicopter with Kostyantyn Zhevago, an iron ore billionaire.

And even President Viktor Yushchenko, who has often decried the political influence of Ukraine's oligarchs, has allowed himself to get close to leading businessmen, who have donated money to Yushchenko-backed charities.

With all parties campaigning hard for the September 30 parliamentary elections, politicians are taking all the support they can. And some – though not all – of the country's business oligarchs are ready to lend a hand.

But it is a delicate relationship. Mr Yushchenko has warned openly that the oligarchs are once again interfering in politics and gaining "the taste of power".

His remarks will strike a chord with those voters who believe businessmen have too big a say in politics. But his comments will be dismissed as electioneering by others, who claim the oligarchs' influence is exaggerated. The oligarchs were formidable political players before the 2004 Orange Revolution, but they were generally obedient to ex-president Leonid Kuchma, currying favour to expand their businesses, often through privatisation deals.

When Mr Yushchenko came to power, supported by the firebrand Ms Tymoshenko, some businessmen feared the new leaders would seek to reverse a decade of privatisation. But those concerns waned after Mr Yushchenko and Ms Tymoshenko fell out in 2005 and the privatisation review ended with the cancellation of just one big deal – the Kryvorizhstal steel mill.

The president then said he wanted to move on and work with business. That message was reinforced once Mr Yanukovich, the president's arch-rival, returned to power as prime minister last year.

With the economy booming, the oligarchs recovered their poise – and enjoyed unprecedented increases in profits and asset values. Meanwhile, the political reforms that followed the Orange Revolution devolved power from the president to parliament – giving MPs, many of them millionaire business people, greater access to power.

With Mr Yushchenko and Mr Yanukovich at loggerheads, and both battling Ms Tymoshenko, the principal opposition leader, post-Orange Revolution politics has offered many openings for oligarchs. Mr Yushchenko called the elections early mainly because he was concerned about corruption in parliament.

The business oligarchs have broadly accepted the president's plans to balance Ukraine's longstanding ties with Russia with closer ties to the European Union. And with Europe becoming Ukraine's main trading partner in recent years, they have increasingly supported Kiev's EU-oriented policy.

"[They] understand the need to put their suits on before entering world markets and the need to clean up their act, push reforms in the country and in their companies," says Kost Bondarenko, a political analyst.

Another analyst, Andriy Yermolaev, sees a divide between pro-Yanukovich businessmen, led by Mr Akhmetov, whose companies are based in east Ukrainian heavy industry, and those oligarchs supporting the president and Ms Tymoshenko, who tend to have more diversified financial and trading interests, such as Igor Kolomoisky, head of the Privat banking-based group.

The Yushchenko/Tymoshenko supporters favour rapid economic reform and liberalisation. The pro-Yanukovich businessmen are more conservative. "The rivalry between these two groups is quite damaging and ruthless," says Mr Yermolaev.

Mr Yushchenko is particularly worried about Mr Akhmetov, who stands out among oligarchs as the richest and most overt in his political involvement. An MP for the Regions party, the largest in parliament, he has long backed Mr Yanukovich and worked with him in managing rich, Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine. The party recently infuriated the president by pushing for a referendum calling for official status for the Russian language and challenging Mr Yushchenko's hopes of closer ties to Nato.

Ms Tymoshenko claims Mr Akhmetov profits from his loyalty to Mr Yanukovich, citing his recent acquisition of a stake in a big state-controlled power generator, Dniproenergo. Mr Akhmetov has denied that he benefited from preferential treatment.

Mr Kolomoisky and Mr Akhmetov did not respond to requests for comment about their political interests. Among several other business leaders, only Serhiy Taruta, co-owner of the leading steel producer ISD Group, agreed to answer questions about politics. The business elite was generally "seeking to be apolitical, as playing in politics can unearth serious risks" for long-term business relations and reputations, he said.

That may be true for Mr Taruta, but clearly not for some of his big rivals.

The oligarchs

Rinat Akhmetov, aged 41. Controls assets in steel, coal, energy, banking, hotels, telecoms, television and soccer. Estimated worth: \$15.6bn (£7.7bn, €11.1bn). Backed Viktor Yanukovich in the 2004 presidential elections. A dedicated member of the premier's Regions party and, since March 2006, an MP, but has some discreet links with Viktor Yushchenko too. He backs the president's EU membership bid but opposes his plans for speedy Nato accession. Backs making Russian official language.

Viktor Pinchuk, aged 46. Controls assets in steel pipe production, railway wheels, media and banking. Estimated worth: \$7bn. Son-in-law to former Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma. Backed Mr Yanukovich in 2004 elections. Ex-MP, stepped down after the Orange Revolution. Some close associates from his past have recently joined Mr Yanukovich's Regions party as parliamentary candidates. Supports EU membership aspirations. Has not been vocal on Mr Yushchenko's Nato plans or the Russian language issue.

Igor Kolomoisky, aged 44. Controls assets in banking, ore mining, steel, energy, ferro alloys, hydrocarbons and media. Estimated worth: \$3.5bn. Main co-owner of Ukraine's Privat business group with Gennady Bogolyubov, aged 45. Privat holds assets outside Ukraine, including factories in Russia, Romania, Poland and the US. Neither has served in parliament or government but according to analysts, both have backed various political parties. Neither has publicly expressed personal views on the EU, Nato or Russian language.

Sergey Taruta, aged 62. Assets in steel, machine building, hotels, gas production. Estimated worth: \$2.3bn. Co-owns Ukraine's industrial ISD Group along with Vitali Gayduk, an ex-government official. Like Mr Akhmetov's empire, this group started in the industrial Donbass. ISD has invested outside Ukraine, including in steel mills in Hungary, Poland and the US. The group appears to try avoid intervening in politics but is viewed as pro-Yushchenko, even though it has not publicly support an EU membership bid.

Kostyantyn Zhevago, aged 32. Assets in ore mining, banking, truck manufacturing, hydrocarbons and real estate. Estimated worth: \$2bn. Has served as legislator, switching between parties since the late 1990s. Currently member of Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc. Supports EU integration, but has not expressed views on Nato or language.

Dmitry Firtash, aged 42. Assets in gas and electricity trading, chemicals, media and real estate. Estimated worth: \$1.4bn. Not publicly active in politics since an unsuccessful bid for parliament in 2002. Viewed as a backer of various parties and political projects. Has strong relations in Moscow as a partner of Russia's Gazprom in Swiss-registered gas trader RosUkrEnergo. Has not expressed his views on EU membership, Nato or the Russian language issue.

Source: Estimated wealth calculated by Kiev-based investment bank Dragon Capital and published by Ukraine's Korrespondent magazine in a 2007 listing of the country's wealthiest people

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20897839/>

4. Margaret Thatcher meets Yulia Tymoshenko
By Ben Martin
Telegraph.co.uk, 23 September 2007

Lady Thatcher met another iron lady of politics yesterday, holding talks with Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko to discuss topics close to both their hearts - economic reform and winning elections.

Mrs Tymoshenko, who became the Ukraine's first female prime minister in 2005 before her government was dismissed amid scandal just seven months later, said she had long admired Lady Thatcher and thanked her for helping lift the Iron Curtain in Eastern Europe.

Wearing the blonde, braided hair that is her trademark, Mrs Tymoshenko said Lady Thatcher had transformed Britain from the "sick man" of Europe into one of Europe's strongest economies.

"She was firm in adversity and stood up to oppression when others remained seated," Mrs Tymoshenko said.

"Her words spoke for countless millions across Eastern Europe who had no voice. She helped write a new chapter for our nation and we remain indebted to her courage."

Lady Thatcher responded by saying she hoped Ukraine's election, due on September 30, would be free and fair and a "guiding light for democracy in Eastern Europe".

"I wish for Ukraine to quickly complete its transformation and for its people to enjoy the benefits of a prosperous democratic nation at the heart of a modern Europe," she said.

"The Orange Revolution gave hope to freedom-loving people everywhere. Its spirit clearly lives on."

Lady Thatcher gave Mrs Tymoshenko a signed copy of her memoirs and Mrs Tymoshenko presented Lady Thatcher with a boxed replica of a 2000 year-old Scythian artwork.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/09/21/wthatcher121.xml>

5. Thatcher blesses Ukraine iron lady
By Marie Colvin
The Sunday Times, 23 September 2007

UKRAINE's former prime minister, Yulia Tymoshenko, flew into London last week to meet Baroness Thatcher, vowing to drag her country kicking and screaming away from the Russian bear and into the European fold if she returns to office after elections next weekend.

"Real women don't do U-turns," she said after the meeting, referring to Thatcher's famous declaration that "the lady's not for turning".

Tymoshenko curled into the back seat of a car, dressed in a sleek cream wool shift matched with 4in high heels. "I think I can be an iron lady and inside still a human," she said. "It's about the ability to preserve the human touch."

Bloc Yulia Tymoshenko, her party, is tipped to do well in the elections and she is the favour-ite to be the next prime minister. With her trademark braid curled around her head, hers is one of the two faces of the

orange revolution, a striking contrast to that of Viktor Yush-chenko, the president, who was disfigured by an attempt to poison him with dioxin, an act he blames on the Russians.

She admits the braid is a "pin on". "I found the style simple," she said. "It saves time, and it's very traditional."

Tymoshenko is pro-western and pro-free market, hence the meeting with Thatcher, who was so taken with her that she told her she would have liked to campaign on her behalf.

A billionaireess who made her fortune in the free-for-all chaos of the mid-1990s in Ukraine's gas business, she is brimming with confidence that her party will win at the polls.

Tymoshenko, 46, was supposedly betrayed by Yush-chenko when he went back on a deal that saw her agree not to run for president if she could serve as prime minister. He dismissed her after seven months.

He then suffered the ignominy of being forced to replace her with a candidate approved by his arch-rival, the pro-Russian Viktor Yanukovich.

Tymoshenko is passionate in her convictions and has no fear of Ukraine's macho political style. "Women are stronger. Like Thatcher, I'm committed to changing my country for the better," she said. She was delighted with a gift of Thatcher's memoirs, inscribed "To Julia, Fighter for Freedom".

Her mission is "first, to preserve our hard-won independence and to get rid of post-Soviet bureaucracy". She promised to fight corruption, the single most difficult issue and one that polls show is people's biggest concern. Even Moscow does not scare her. "If the independence of the Ukraine is at stake, then I will call people on to the streets."

It will be a tough fight. In parliamentary elections last year the single largest share of the vote went to the Party of the Regions, led by Yanukovich.

Tymoshenko flew back in a private jet to campaign in these very regions where Ukraine's 17% ethnic Russian minority, many of whom pine for closer ties with Moscow, are concentrated. A heady mix of beauty and brains, a whirlwind of energy, like Thatcher she may change her country for ever.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article2511689.ece>

6. Mrs T meets Mrs T for a nice cup of tea
By Jenny Booth and agencies
Times Online, 23 September 2007

Yulia Tymoshenko, one of the leaders of Ukraine's Orange revolution, came to pay homage yesterday at the feet of Baroness Thatcher, the veteran former leader of the Conservative party.

The two diminutive, blonde, female, former Prime Ministers sat down to tea at the Goring Hotel in London to discuss the dark days of the Cold War - and possibly also motherhood, pearls and iconic political hairdos.

Mrs Tymoshenko, whose advisers were cheekily billing the private meeting as "Mrs T meets Mrs T", praised Lady Thatcher as Britain's saviour and thanked her for championing freedom for the former Soviet bloc states of Eastern Europe.

Political observers say that Mrs Tymoshenko, the fiercely ambitious leader of the Ukrainian opposition, may have been hoping for some of the Iron Lady's stardust to rub off on her campaign, as elections near on September 30.

Lady Thatcher's aims were less clear, although she is known to enjoy homage, and to feel aggrieved that little of it is forthcoming from David Cameron and the Conservative leadership.

There was plenty of praise from her tea companion.

"I have long admired Lady Thatcher, and drawn inspiration from her success in transforming her country from being the sick man of Europe into one of Europe's strongest economies, and raising UK living standards to one of the highest in the world," said Mrs Tymoshenko.

"Her model has been followed and emulated by Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Nicholas Sarkozy.

"She was firm in adversity and stood up to oppression when others remained seated. Her words spoke for countless millions across Eastern Europe who had no voice.

"She helped write a new chapter for our nation and we remain indebted to her courage."

A beaming Lady Thatcher appeared animated at the encounter, and even permitted the Ukrainian politician to put an arm around her shoulders.

She wished Mrs Tymoshenko well for the future, expressed a hope that the Ukrainian elections would be free and fair, and as the meeting ended bestowed on her a signed copy of her political memoirs.

Last week Lady Thatcher caused a stir when she took tea with Gordon Brown, once a vehement political opponent, thus directing the political limelight away from Mr Cameron's efforts to launch a Conservative policy document on the environment.

Some Tories claimed that Mr Brown had taken advantage of the "frail, lonely" Lady Thatcher for a photo opportunity, but others asserted that the former Premier knew perfectly well what she was doing.

Lady Thatcher appears to be fast becoming a political monument to whom it is fashionable to pay tribute. US Republican presidential hopefuls Rudy Giuliani, Fred Thompson and Mitt Romney have all recently paid her a visit.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article2505255.ece>

7. Yulia Tymoshenko and Margaret Thatcher Hold Private Meeting CNW, 21 September 2007

Yulia Tymoshenko, the leader of Ukraine's opposition party (BYuT), met with the Rt. Hon. Baroness Margaret Thatcher on 21 September, 2007 in London. Ms. Tymoshenko held private discussions with the "Iron Lady," who was Britain's Prime Minister from 1979 to 1990 and credited with transforming the country and helping to end the Cold War.

The former-prime ministers discussed the forthcoming parliamentary election in Ukraine, which is scheduled for 30 September, 2007 and the long-term reform program designed to bring Ukraine up to European standards.

Lady Thatcher expressed her hope that Ukraine's election would be fair and pronounced her wish for the Ukrainian people to keep alive the spirit of freedom and democracy that characterized the Orange Revolution. She went on to express her admiration for all Ms. Tymoshenko has achieved and wished her well for the future.

"I hope the elections will be free and fair and be a guiding light for democracy in Eastern Europe," said Lady Thatcher, "I wish for Ukraine to quickly complete its transformation and for its people to enjoy the benefits of a prosperous democratic nation at the heart of a modern Europe. The Orange Revolution gave hope to freedom-loving people everywhere - its spirit clearly lives on."

Ms. Tymoshenko discussed the need for economic, social and legal reforms and thanked Lady Thatcher for her work in helping to lift the "Iron Curtain" and furthering the peaceful transition to democracy and state sovereignty in Eastern Europe.

Ms. Tymoshenko said: "I have long-admired Lady Thatcher and drawn inspiration from her success in transforming her country from being a "sick man" of Europe into one of Europe's strongest economies and raising UK living standards to one of the highest in the world. Her model has been followed and emulated by Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and even Nicolas Sarkozy the new President of France.

"She was firm in adversity and stood up to oppression when others remained seated. Her words spoke for countless millions across Eastern Europe who had no voice. She helped write a new chapter for our nation and we remain indebted to her courage."

Also attending the meeting were Dr. Hryhoriy Nemyria, Ms. Tymoshenko's foreign affairs adviser and Deputy Chairman of BYuT, and the Rt Hon. Lord

Hamilton of Epsom (Archie Hamilton), who held a number of important posts in Lady Thatcher's government including Ministry of State for the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.cnw.ca/fr/releases/archive/September2007/21/c3720.html>

8. Ukraine's DataGroup raises 21 mln usd in private placement Interfax, 21 September 2007

DataGroup, one of the largest telecommunications operators in Ukraine, raised 21 mln usd with the private placement of 10 pct of its stock, the Kyiv-based company's president, Alexander Kardakov, said.

The deal was closed in August 2007, he said. The shares were sold to a group of private individuals.

DataGroup said in a press release that it plans to use the money to build data networks and improve its sales system. The private placement was carried out without financial intermediaries.

Kardakov said the company is still preparing to carry out an initial public offering, but final decisions have not yet been made.

The company is expected to carry out an IPO by 2009, and it aims to boost its capitalization by that time.

'We are planning to increase capitalization to over 1 bln usd, but we're not sure if this will work out,' Kardakov said at a press conference on Thursday.

DataGroup was formed with the merger of Kyiv-based satellite operator Datasat, terrestrial data operator Datacom, telephone operator Krokus Telecom, fiber optic communications provider Kol; Nikolayev telephone operator NTC; Remex Telecom; TeleportSV; and Fotacom.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2007/09/21/afx4142273.html>

9. Russia, Ukraine Consolidate Aircraft Construction Kommersant, 21 September 2007

Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Russia's President Vladimir Putin have preliminary discussed the potential consolidation of aircraft industry's enterprises of both countries.

The possibility of consolidating aircraft industry's enterprises has been morally agreed on, but the final decision will be taken by governments of both states after analyzing proposals of industry, said Oleg Shevchenko, who chairs the board at Aviation of Ukraine State-Run Aircraft Construction Consortium.

The need to consolidate enterprises will be clear to any leader of Ukrainian government, said Viktor Livanov, who is the board member at United Aircraft Construction Corporation. "Whatever the leadership in Ukraine, if authorities of the republic think that the aircraft industry of the country should be preserved, there is no other way out," Livanov pointed out.

Soviet aircraft used to cover 27 percent of the global market of transport aviation, but "we have begun to lose it impetuously," the official specified. "The competition should be not between Ukraine and Russia but with Boeing and Airbus," Livanov said, adding that consolidation of two companies is to be carried out after the independent estimate of their assets.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://www.kommersant.com/p-11418/Aircraft_consolidation/

10. "Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense" bloc to sue actions of Interior Ministry NRCU, 21 September 2007

OUPSD will sue the actions of the Interior Ministry in collection and spreading personal information about citizens of Ukraine, who recently traveled abroad, deputy chief of the OUPSD elections staff for juridical affairs Mykola Onyshchuk said.

According to Mr Onyshchuk, the active legislation does not entitle the law enforcement bodies to collect and spread such information. By way of referring to information in the media, the politician said that the Interior Ministry has sent personal data to the CEC about more than three million persons with the proposal to use this information during making up and specifying voters lists. Mr Onyshchuk stressed that the law does not provide for such a form and way of information collection, which the Interior Ministry applied to in this case. "It means misuse of power by those officials, who did that," he added.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=52082>

11. Ukraine 'enraged' by EU visa comments theParliament.com, 21 September 2007

Ukraine's EU ambassador Roman Shpek has criticised comments made by external relations commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner over the issue of visas.

In an interview given earlier this week to Ukrainian newspaper Delo, Ferrero-Waldner said that the EU would not ratify its visa facilitation agreement with Kiev until Ukraine abolished visas for Romania and Bulgaria.

But Ukraine insists that this issue was already discussed during the annual EU-Ukraine summit earlier this month, during which Kiev announced that the visa-free regime for Bulgaria and Romania would only be extended and adopted following due internal procedures.

Shpek's office told theParliament.com that Ukraine's decision to establish a visa waiver scheme for EU citizens was done of its own volition in 2005, and that the EU therefore has "no grounds to demand ... that such a regime be extended automatically to new member states".

Furthermore, the ambassador voiced his displeasure over Ferrero-Waldner's comments that Ukraine's failure to extend the visa-free scheme would "affect the authority of the president, the prime minister and Ukraine itself".

In a statement, the ambassador went on to criticise the EU over the practice of "groundless and humiliating" visa refusals to Ukrainian citizens in certain member states, as well as the activities of intermediary visa centres.

"Such a practice gravely contravenes the provisions of the visa facilitation agreement signed in June this year," said the statement.

Ukraine remains confident however that the issue of establishing a visa-free regime for Bulgaria and Romania, and ensuring swift visa issuance for Ukrainian citizens, can be settled.

In addition, a joint summit statement issued last week reaffirmed both Ukraine and EU intentions "to embark upon negotiations on a comprehensive free trade area as a core element of the new enhanced agreement".

The annual bilateral meetings between Ukraine and the EU were established by the partnership and cooperation agreement ratified in 1998.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://www.eupolitix.com/EN/News/200709/dc4c8248-0314-4386-a7ca-a0639fc0d33e.htm>

12. Vimpelcom aims to double Ukraine market share TeleGeography, 21 September 2007

Russian cellco Vimpelcom aims to double its share of the Ukrainian market, where it operates under the BeeLine brand, in two to three years, an unnamed company official has said. BeeLine, formerly Ukrainian Radio Systems (URS) until the Russian operator acquired it for USD321 million in November 2005, relaunching as BeeLine the following April, currently has approximately two million subscribers, equating to a market share of about 5%. He went on to mention how Vimpelcom's entry into the Ukraine market has been a bone of contention between two of its shareholders, Altimo, the telecoms arm of Russian tycoon Mikhail Fridman's Alfa Group which owns 44% of the cellco, and Norway's Telenor, which owns 29.9%.

Telenor also owns 56.5% of rival cellco Kyivstar, the most-subscribed network, with around 43% of the market. Altime holds the remaining 43.5%. The official said Telenor was not happy with [VimpelCom's] entrance into the saturated Ukrainian market because this triggered price erosion. 'Telenor wants to keep Vimpelcom as a regional operator because its share in Kyivstar is bigger than that in Vimpelcom,' he added. Telenor won an injunction in a US court in August 2006 forcing Alfa to either sell its Kyivstar stake or divest from competing Ukrainian mobile operators within 120 days. Alfa responded by saying the ruling would have no impact because it could not be enforced in Ukraine.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

http://www.telegeography.com/cu/article.php?article_id=19770&email=html

13. Ukraine condemns terrorist acts in Beirut UNIAN, 21 September 2007

News on terrorist act in Beirut on 19 of September of 2007, which caused victims among civil population, in particularly member of Lebanese parliament Antoine Ghanem, was received in Ukraine with deep concern, according to the MFA press-service.

Ukraine is strongly condemning a practice of political killings and terrorist attacks in Lebanon and hopes that Lebanese people will not be provoked and will not allow deepening of internal political confrontation.

We call upon all political forces in Lebanon to reject hostility and mutual mistrust and concentrate their efforts on building of a modern democratic state.

Constant URL of article:

<http://www.unian.net/eng/news/news-213322.html>

14. Ukraine enraged by comments of EU Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner UNIAN, 21 September 2007

Ukraine has been enraged by the comments of the EU Commissioner for External Relations and Neighbourhood Policy Mrs. Benita Ferrero-Waldner to the Ukrainian newspaper "Delo" of September 20, 2007, according to the comment of the representative of Ukraine ambassador Roman Shpek. Mrs. Benita Ferrero-Waldner claimed in her interview about the EU intention not to ratify the visa facilitation agreement until Ukraine abolishes visas for Romania and Bulgaria, and that the Ukraine's alleged refusal to do so "affects the authority of the president, the prime minister and Ukraine itself".

Mr. Shpek's statement reads as follows:

"In this regard I would like to emphasize that this issue was already discussed during the Kyiv EU-Ukraine Summit on September 14, 2007. At the Summit the Ukrainian side provided explanations that the decision to extend a visa-free regime to Bulgaria and Romania was studied and would be adopted following due internal procedures. In my opinion, the EU side should respect that. I would like to remind that the 2005 decision to abolish visa requirements for EU citizens was an act of goodwill from the Ukrainian part. The EU side has no grounds to demand in the ultimatum-like manner that such regime be extended automatically to the new Member States. In this regard we are concerned by the EU intentions to go back on the agreed parallel ratification of the visa facilitation and readmission agreements.

In fact, I am surprised not so much with the interview of Mrs. Ferrero-Waldner, as with the EU silence on the practice of groundless and humiliating visa refusals to Ukrainian citizens in the hands of consular missions of certain Member States, as well as with the activities of intermediary visa centres on their

behalf. Such a practice gravely contravenes the provisions of the visa facilitation agreement signed in June this year.

The need to address these problems has been recognized by the parties in the Joint Statement of the Kyiv Summit. I have to remind that a principle of unity and coherence of external actions of the Community and the Member States remains a fundamental EU legal principle. We expect that this principle will be followed without exceptions in EU-Ukraine relations.

It is regrettable that a respected EU institution resorts to the language of ultimata and blackmail in the discussion of these issues. In my opinion, this is not a language which should be used in the dialogue between good and reliable partners such as EU and Ukraine.

I am convinced that the parties will manage to resolve in a constructive spirit of partnership the issues of visa-free regime for Bulgaria and Romania, as well as the adequate practice of visa issuance for Ukrainian citizens before the visa facilitation and readmission agreements take effect."

Constant URL of article:

<http://www.unian.net/eng/news/news-213305.html>

15. East European immigrants fuel return of servant class
By Roger Dobson
The Independent, 23 September 2007

There was a time when the flustered British housewife of a certain rank would look disdainfully at the dirty marks on her cutlery and despairingly exclaim: "You just can't get the staff."

The good news for the overworked middle classes who are looking for help with the chores is that now they can.

Migration from eastern Europe, Africa and Asia is creating a ready supply of willing downstairs staff, with more and more being employed to watch the kids and clean the bathroom in a kind of international class system, according to a new report.

Just this week, the socialite Tara Palmer-Tomkinson revealed that she had a "massive staff", mainly from Ukraine. "As I don't have a husband, I rather look forward to having people around me. I have half the Ukraine here every day. It's like the Russian army coming in to clean. I want to come back at night and feel like I'm in a five-star hotel," she said.

The bad news for the migrants, however, is that high-powered executives and business people are increasingly picky about who they employ, with white women being the preferred home help, the study, by Bridget Anderson of Oxford University, says.

Men are considered too much of a risk to be looking after young children, especially girls, and black people are unpopular as au pairs.

While race was described by one agency as "the unmentionable", there are also more complex reasons for the choosiness. The British middle classes are looking for domestic help who can't easily pack up and leave, which means employing people from war-torn countries or from non-EU countries whose presence in Britain is dependent on their employment.

The top five sources for maids and butlers are the Philippines, Ukraine, Latvia, Malaysia and Zimbabwe.

"It is legal for a private householder to refuse to employ someone on the grounds of their colour, their nationality or their religion, and from our interviews with employers, it is clear that they do," say the researchers, whose work is to be published in the European Journal of Women's Studies.

"Employers are not only looking for generic 'foreignness', however, but typically also seek particular nationalities or ethnicities of worker, which can raise difficulties for agencies who are not allowed to discriminate on the basis of 'race'."

Half of British households employ some form of domestic staff in an industry now thought to be worth around £20bn a year.

On average, each household spends around £1,924 on chauffeurs, dog walkers, babysitters, nannies and cooks.

Relations with domestic staff do not always run smoothly, however. Sting's wife, Trudie Styler, was sued by her cook, Jane Martin, earlier this year.

Ms Martin claimed sexual discrimination after being forced to work 14-hour days while pregnant. The tribunal heard how Ms Styler, 52, abused her domestic staff to make her "feel royal".

Where do they get their staff?

Philippines

Main provider of cleaning staff in domestic households. Described by President Gloria Arroyo as a nation that provides "supermaids".

Ukraine

Female domestic workers from the Ukraine are very popular with UK working mothers looking for au pairs.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabweans mainly work as cleaners in schools and hospitals.

Latvia

Many Latvians work as butlers due to the comparatively good salaries compared with other domestic work.

Malaysia

Malaysians gravitate towards domestic work – many work as household maids in the UK.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/this_britain/article2990167.ece

16. People traveling to Belarusian rock festival in Ukraine turned back by police, artists allowed to cross border after six-hour detention Белорусские новости, 23 September 2007

Police turned back people who were traveling by bus to a Belarusian rock music festival to be held in the Ukrainian city of Lutsk near the Belarusian border on September 22.

One bus was reportedly pulled over by traffic police officers near Dzyarzhynsk at about 11 p.m. and another bus near Stowbtsy at about 0:45 a.m. on alleged grounds of driving in excess of the speed limit. There were some 40 people on each of the buses.

The passengers of the bus stopped near Dzyarzhynsk had their names, addresses and occupation data written down and then were put on another bus, which transported them back to Minsk under the escort of an armored police prisoner van at about 2 a.m.

The other bus was driven to the Stowbtsy district police department under the escort of traffic police cars. Its passengers underwent the same procedure.

Belarusian rockers who were expected to play at the festival, including Krama, Ulis, Neuro Dubel, Znich, and Tav. Mauzer, managed to reach the Ukrainian border but were allowed to cross it after waiting six hours.

Belarusian border guards at the Makrany checkpoint, Brest region, took away the travelers' passports and refused to explain the reason, Krama singer Ihar Varashkevich told *BelaPAN*. The musicians were eventually given back their passports and allowed to go. Their bus crossed the border into Ukraine at nearly 1 a.m. Mr. Varashkevich described the detention as a psychological attack on the musicians to abate their spirits.

The Belarusian rock festival titled, «The Right to Be Free,» was organized by the Belarusian Music Alternative (BMA) Group, European Radio for Belarus, and StudFarmat, a youth group. It was to take place in Lutsk's central park and feature rock bands blacklisted in Belarus for their openly negative attitude toward the Lukashenka government. The city authorities allowed performances to last until midnight and gave their consent to a tent camp in the park.

«The main objective and idea of the festival is to draw public attention to the human rights situation in Belarus,» the organizers said. «Musicians have the right to create and play, young people have the right to communicate freely, freely express their thoughts, and listen to the music they like.»

The organizers hope that the festival will be held every year and last two or three days.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
http://naviny.by/rubrics/inter/2007/09/22/ic_articles_259_152951/

17. Babi Yar WWII massacre commemorated in Ukraine FOCUS News Agency, 23 September 2007

Kiev. About a hundred people gathered in the Ukrainian capital Kiev on Sunday to commemorate one of the most infamous massacres of East European Jews during World War II, the Babi Yar massacre. Relatives of the dead laid flowers, candles and small stones according to Jewish tradition at a monument formed in the shape of a menorah, or seven-branched candelabrum. Prayers were said in Hebrew by Ukrainian chief rabbi Yakiv Blaykh. On September 29-30, 1941 nearly 34,000 Jews were shot at Babi Yar (Woman's Ravine) by German forces and their local collaborators. Up to 60,000 more people were killed there up to 1943, among them Jews, Roma, resistance fighters and Soviet prisoners of war.
Source: **AFP**

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n122788>

**18. Cabinet of Ministers doesn't want to support Russian language?
ForUm, 19 September 2007**

The draft budget for the next year foresees financing of the row of programs, directed at Ukrainian language development. Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Dmytro Tabachnyk has told journalists at a briefing in the Cabinet of Ministers on Wednesday, ForUm's correspondent reports.

"More than UAH 25 million are foreseen for the support of Ukrainian book. This is educational literature," he said.

According to Tabachnyk, the support of State books publications is increased 30 % in comparison with 2007.

Vice Prime Minister has noted, that the Government plans to enlarge funds of public libraries.

He has emphasized that the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs have a row of programs, directed at the support Ukrainian language, as the State language. "There are no similar programs in relation to other languages. There are only program on support of publications of ethnic minority," Tabachnyk said.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2007/09/19/173016.html>

**19. Ukraine and EU to hold consultations about free trade
ForUm, 21 September 2007**

The next round of consultations with the European Union about free trade zone will take place in Kyiv on September 25-26. Deputy Minister of Economy Valeriy Pyatnytsky has informed today at a briefing.

In particular, the sides will discuss questions on tariff regulation, cooperation in the customs sphere and others.

"The consultations have been already started with such countries as Singapore and Turkey... The consultations with Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein are being held. These consultations are being held in the context of the consultations with the European Union," Pyatnytsky informed.

The strengthened agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, the main part of which will be the free trade zone formation, will be signed after Ukraine will have entered the World trade organization and after formal negotiations concerning the free trade zone.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2007/09/21/151855.html>

**20. YUSHCHENKO IS FORBIDDEN TO AGITATE FOR NU-NS
Ukrayinska Prawda, 21 September 2007**

Central Election Commission (CEC) invalidated participation of President Viktor Yushchenko in election campaign for Our Ukraine—People's Self-Defense Bloc (NU-NS) and obliged him to abstain from agitation during the election campaign.

CEC considered a complaint of the Socialist Party of Ukraine and made such decision at the session on the night on Friday/Saturday.

Central Election Commission held that Mr. Yushchenko brought the law while participating in the election campaign with agitation for NU-NS. He infringed the voting rights of the citizens, rights and interests of the election process subjects.

CEC obliged Mr. Yushchenko to abstain from participation in the election campaign.

Source: Interfax-Ukraine news agency

Permanent Link: <http://www.pravda.com.ua/en/news/2007/9/22/8966.htm>

21. Yushchenko to Dispute With CEC Ukrayinska Pravda, 21 September 2007

President Viktor Yushchenko appeals to Central Election Commission (CEC) not to politicize its activity and stresses that as a Head of the state he is a participant of a political process.

He stated this to journalists in Khmelnytsky on Saturday in his comments on the CEC decision. According to the decision the President is obliged to abstain from the election campaign, the President's press service reports.

"As a President I am not outside the political process. I have a responsibility for legality and freedoms," stressed Mr. Yushchenko. He emphasized that he takes every opportunity to talk with the citizens, community about democracy development.

"That is why, I would recommend to the state agencies, including the Central Election Commission, not to politicize its activity. It is not their competence to give such recommendations or similar valuations," stressed the President.

The Head of the state also advised to the CEC members to get acquainted with all imperative norms concerning the president in the Constitution of Ukraine. "If you find an imperative norm of the Ukrainian Constitution, according to which the president is outside of the political process, I would like to dispute about this," said Mr. Yushchenko.

As it was reported earlier, on the night of September 21/22 CEC invalidated the President's participation in the election agitation for Our Ukraine—People's Self-Defense Bloc (NU-NS) and obliged him to abstain from this during the election process. CEC considered a complaint of the Socialist Party of Ukraine and made such a decision.

On September 15 in Lviv Mr. Yushchenko appealed to voters to support 'his team' – NU-NS bloc – on the election.

On September 16 Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich stated that according to the Constitution of Ukraine the president has no right to participate in agitation for any party.

Permanent Link: <http://www.pravda.com.ua/en/news/2007/9/22/8968.htm>

22. Yulia Tymoshenko: “If Our Ukraine Forms Coalition With the Party of Regions We Will Get Ready for the Presidential Election”
By Serhiy Leshchenko
Ukrayinska Prawda, 24 September 2007

To interview Yulia Tymoshenko one must go 300 or even 500 km away from Kyiv. It depends on her election tour.

This conversation took place in Poltava after a half an hour rally in this city and an hour rally in Kremenchug and meeting with representatives of small business...

It is 9 p.m. Mrs. Tymoshenko is having a cup of green tea. Live air on local TV is her program item. After that Yulia Tymoshenko goes to Sumy and Chernihiv regions without returning to Kyiv. Such schedule will end on September 28 on the last day of permitted agitation when Mrs. Tymoshenko is going to hold the last rally. That is how she is going to live through another election in her life.

– Election campaign is almost over. What are your impressions? How much do you sleep?

– I grossly violate all sanitary standards and requirements of the Labor Code. Sometimes I manage to have a five hour sleep...

– What is your forecast for September 30?

– I do not want to make any forecasts. I travel countrywide and watch people's attitude changing rapidly. I believe that changes, and more importantly positive changes, are taking place every day.

It is no use carrying out polls now because the results will dramatically change even before the first preliminary official election outcome. Making forecasts one admits that the voters' attitude is stable. Let this attitude change until the morning of September 30.

I am sure that we will receive much more votes than everybody expects. I remember they forecast us 1.5% in 2002 but we received 7.26%.

In 2006, all Gallup Polls forecast 11-13% but we received about 22%. Thanks God they forecast 22-25% for us now. But I am sure we will have more.

– It is obvious that you were used as a means to dissolve parliament and destroy the anticrisis coalition. Are there any guarantees that the early election will not end in formation of a broad coalition between the Party of Regions and Our Ukraine?

– It is a big question who used whom. As to the coalition, we must admit that guarantees are nothing in Ukrainian politics.

You know they give a one-year guarantee for home appliances. It would be great if it was a one day guarantee in Ukrainian politics. There are more guarantees in a toaster or a frying pan than in National Unity Pacts, Memorandums, decrees and agreements altogether.

Today, all political forces are taking care of their political future. I would like to remind that the country will have presidential election in 2010.

I think that Our Ukraine and Mr. President are interested in formation of a democratic coalition and government to consolidate our efforts in support of a single candidate for president.

If democratic forces have enough votes to form a coalition they will go for it.

However, we cannot always count on accidents and good mood of the politicians. That is why are working hard to receive 226 seats in parliament. I do not think we are too far from it.

– ... well, no party has ever received the majority of seats in parliament in the entire modern history of Ukraine...

– Some time things happen for the first time. Do you think it is impossible that the history book will read: “In 2007, for the first time in Ukraine’s history one political force received the majority of seats in parliament?” I think it is possible. And this must be BYuT.

– You have previously told Ukrayinska Pravda that you always knew you would be the head of state...

– Besides, I wanted to be a doctor, Little Red Riding Hood or Peter Pan (laughs). It is not the office that matters for me.

– All politicians say that!

– You know, Serhiy, if power was my obsession, then, believe me, I would have been the head of government for ten years now without any Orange Revolutions and early elections.

I am not obsessed by power. The doorplate “Yulia Tymoshenko. The Prime Minister of Ukraine” arouses no extraordinary emotions. It is important for me to have the opportunity of changing the country for the better.

If I have such an opportunity feeling that we are one team with the strong government I will have no reasons to run for president competing with the team member.

– But let’s imagine such a situation: the Orange lack seats in parliament and the Party of Regions chooses the coalition partner between Our Ukraine and the Communist Party. As a result the coalition of Our Ukraine and the Party of Regions is formed. What would you do? Would you consider this decision betrayal performed by Our Ukraine?

– I do not think that so many people will vote for the Party of Regions. One must be masochist to step on the same rakes twice and wait for “improvement of living standards today.” Look at their ads on TV! Who directed those ads? Was it a stand up comedian? Was it Comedy Club?

“The prices are down, petrol is cheaper, meat is almost free.” Who do they think Ukrainian people are? Do they think Ukrainians are idiots?

The Party of Regions election campaign reminds me of Soviet-time polemics when in response to accusations of the US that there was no freedom of speech and conscience in the USSR, the Soviet government said: “But you kill black people!”

– Still, you did not answer the question. If the Orange lack seats and Our Ukraine forms coalition with the Party of Regions...

– It does not matter for me. If a broad coalition is formed we will be getting ready for the presidential election.

– Тобто таким чином ви берете "Нашу Україну" на гачок...

– So, you want to catch Our Ukraine in such a way...

– No. Our Ukraine is not a fish to swallow the bait. One must catch this fish with the net or even with the dynamite. I am kidding... *(smiles)*

In a word, one must be a poacher to pursue own political course especially during the political 'spawning' (i.e. formation of different coalitions and entering into different political alliances).

In fact, the situation is absolutely clear! Our team believes that the power is the only way to bring order to the country. We will always strive for reforming of all spheres of life in Ukraine.

It is as clear as a war. If democratic coalition has enough votes then *only* democratic coalition will be formed.

I am almost convinced that Communists will not enter this parliament. Do you remember the year 2002 when sociologists forecast 8% for Women for Future and The Green Party? Where are these parties now?

I think that Communists will have an excellent opportunity to get back to the roots (i.e. to go underground). It is most likely that three political forces will be represented in the new parliament and then, obviously we will form a democratic coalition.

– Still, let's imagine that the Party of Regions and Our Ukraine form a coalition, you get ready for the presidential election and Mr. Yushchenko runs for president as well. Obviously, two Orange candidates will scatter votes and thus lose to Yanukovich.

– No! Why do you think so? *(Mrs. Tymoshenko gives a cunning smile and lowers her voice)*

You forgot that the presidential election has two stages. Two strongest candidates will pass to the second stage. There will be no scattering of votes.

– Do you think Mr. Yushchenko must run for the second presidential term?

– The next two years will give an answer to this question. If we form a normal democratic coalition and a strong government, thus bringing order to the country, then his running for the second term might be reasonable.

– You proposed to call an all-national referendum regarding the new Constitution. The first item of the referendum read "liquidate the PM's office. The government must be chaired by the President". This means shift to the presidential republic. The second item read "liquidate the president's office. The country is run by the PM". This means shift to the parliamentary republic. How would Yulia Tymoshenko vote if this referendum took place?

– *(Pauses)* I think that politicians must not pressure mass consciousness.

I do not want to make public my possible choice because I am convinced that both parliamentary and presidential models are acceptable in case they are well-thought and legally supported.

In fact, if properly structured and balanced there is no difference between these models. President of France Nikola Sarkozy is a great president but this does not mean that Angela Merkel must be called the president but not German Chancellor.

It is nature of things that matters for BYuT. It is important that people give a clear answer.

If it is important for most people that the president must be the head of state then we need to adopt presidential model of power. However it must be balanced with a system of restrictions, a strong opposition, independent court system and mass media. The president must in no way become the Tsar.

On the other hand, if people choose parliamentary model then the president's office is unnecessary. The country will be run by the Chancellor or the PM.

– It may seem that you act as a weathercock leaving space for maneuver depending on your ambitions either for the president's or the PM's office.

– I can afford speaking that way because we will win both presidential and parliamentary campaigns if we set such a goal. It is important for us that the political system is comfortable for the public.

– But what is your choice here?

– We will be happy to accept both presidential and parliamentary models because either of them will be better than chaos or anarchy.

– At every rally you mention Mr. Yanukovich's inconsistency regarding NATO issue. You claim that Yanukovich agitates against NATO but at the same time you quote his interview where he stated that he would support NATO membership for Ukraine. There is a question you have never answered: would Yulia Tymoshenko vote for or against NATO membership if the referendum took place tomorrow? It is a yes/no question. Just give a short answer.

– Here is a short answer. I think that Ukraine cannot be alone in the world. Our country must be a member of the collective defense system. Modern world has very serious challenges and it is difficult to respond to these challenges alone. If you want to know my opinion, I would make every effort to develop the European system of collective defense.

– That means that you would vote against Ukraine joining NATO? Am I correct?

– I would vote for Ukraine joining the developing European collective defense system where Ukraine could take an active part alongside with other European countries.

– But it is not fair! You reproach Yanukovich with NATO. However, when you are asked about your vote at the possible referendum you give no answer.

– I think that Mr. Yanukovich became somewhat confused in abbreviations. NATO, AIDS, OSCE, OPEC, NKVD, what else?

Personally I think that the NATO issue is not the matter of primary or even secondary importance for Ukraine. Unity of the nation, territorial integrity of the country and higher social standards are more important than joining any organization.

If NATO issue splits the country in 2007 then let's wait for the years 2008 or 2009 without scaring henpecked people. Our politicians have cowed them so much that they expect vicious NATO soldiers to burn their homes singing "Deutschland, Deutschland!" at the same time just on the first day of Ukraine's membership in this organization.

Politicians parasitize on the NATO issue substituting discussion of the NATO membership for Ukraine with the World War II rhetoric. The issue of joining collective defense system is the issue of social evolution. First, we need to unite the country and only then pose such questions.

– During the rallies you often mention DniproEnergo which, according to you, Rynat Akhmetov presented his son for September 1. What is the future of this enterprise in case of your victory?

– Ukraine lost DniproEnergo which had been stolen. Now, courts are hearing this case. And I am sure it will be determination of law.

Why did mass media, including *Ukrayinska Pravda*, start publishing articles with the headlines like “Tymoshenko goes hard on Akhmetov”, “Tymoshenko declared war on Rynat” and so on? Nothing of the kind! I would have the same position if DniproEnergo had been stolen by some Mr. Smith or Mr. Black...

I just want to stop the trend of unpunished ripping off the country. Moreover, our opponents do not plead guilty and do not regret of what they have done. They have not changed. They remained the same as they used to be in 2004.

Today, the Internet is full of banners like “It is good that Akhmetov saved DniproEnergo.” However, it is just stealing from the state. If we do not stop them they will never stop themselves.

They want to ‘swallow’ everything the state has. By the way, there is information in mass media that Rynat Akhmetov will soon control Kyivmiskbud. (Kyiv building company)

Finally, I understood the part of the Party of Regions election program where they state their readiness to support Ukrainian citizens from birth up to the mature age.

There remains one thing to do. They need to privatize maternity hospitals, churches and morgues. Then such ‘support’ will be complete. The biography of an ordinary Ukrainian citizen will read: “Born in Akhmetov maternity hospital, baptized in the Yanukovych Church, attended Azarov kindergarten. Finally finished Kolesnikov High School and was employed in Klyuev Company. Buried at Kiselyov cemetery.”

This is an attempt of total control over the people and society. It is George Orwell, 1984. Financial dictatorship is the best dictatorship ever!

– Is it true that the President’s Secretariat went into a huddle with Mr. Akhmetov in order to neutralize legal mechanisms that would stop Mr. Akhmetov from assuming control over DniproEnergo?

– I think that the president must issue a decree suspending the government resolution on such illegal way of DniproEnergo privatization and forward this resolution to the Constitutional Court. That is what the president is obliged to do.

I cannot analyze who agreed with whom... I can only guess. But if the president is aware of this corrupt scheme, then he must issue a decree to suspend the government resolution.

– Recently, during the meeting with businessmen held last week in Hyatt Hotel, you touched upon re-privatization issue. You said that “forgive me but everything stolen from the state but be returned to state ownership.” You also mentioned that owners of petroleum refineries did not comply with investment liabilities. Does this mean that after your return to power you will bring petroleum refineries back under state ownership to re-sell them?

– I would like to remind that the term “re-privatization” was invented by our oligarchs out of fear. They were so scared that they needed the defense.

What is the true story? When Kuchma's era had ended the new authority (I was the PM then) wanted to have a look what had happened to state property for the ten years of Kuchma's reign. It was for the first time that a living human being wanted to inspect those documents!

The Prosecutor General's Office carried out the relevant analysis on the government's errand. In a month, Deputy Prosecutor General Tetyana Korniyakova came to the government sitting with a thick folder having stated that according to the most conservative estimates, the state had lost over three thousand enterprises.

That is how the myth about "300 enterprises which Tymoshenko wants to take away from Pinchuk" emerged. In fact, during the seven months of my premiership I did not use the word "re-privatization" once!

Re-privatization and nationalization are synonyms. This process is implemented through adoption of re-privatization bills. The state needs to pursue special policy leaving the re-privatization issue in the competence of the court system. Any disputes must be resolved in courts. It is not in government's competence. My government will not do that. I would like to repeat: *"It will not!"*

But I never promised that courts and law-enforcement bodies would be idle, I never promised that criminals, corruption and shadow privatization would be protected by the state.

If the president has a very good slogan "Law is for everybody" then the state must have the same attitude to 'carnappers' and embezzlers of state-owned property. If a person broke the law he must bear responsibility. But it is beyond the government's competence. Courts and the prosecutor offices are in charge of it.

– What are the main mistakes in the BYuT election campaign?

– We are doing great both in villages and cities. I would say it is a perfect election campaign.

– It was reported last week that Yosyp Vinsky was unwell? It is true he has been poisoned?

– No! It is because of overfatigue. Mr. Vinsky is working so hard that his organism gives up. Women are so much stronger. *(laughs)*

– Did you have all members of the BYuT election list sign a commitment to voluntarily resign from parliament in the event of violating the faction discipline?

– Yes. We have such a document. I think all candidates will sign it before the election.

– Do you think ads on TV about Vanga and Nostradamus have their positive effect?

– I do not know. We will see after election...

– Soon, early election of Kyiv's mayor may be held. Will you support Vitaliy Klitschko or nominate your own candidate? According to some information, this may be Oleksandr Turchynov.

– I do not think it will be Mr. Turchynov. We will have our own candidate for the mayor's office.

– Klitschko?

– No. It will be the BYuT member.

– You said that solidarism is a cornerstone of your ideology. Solidarism implies that owner of the enterprise must share profit with workers. Did you offer, for instance, Kostyantyn Zhevago to share profit from his enterprises with the people working there? That would be a good start to implement your ideology.

– I sincerely believe that the harmonic society will be built only when the owner shares with the workers three times.

The first time is when he pays decent wages, while the second time being pay for minor shares. The third time comes when he shares profit with the workers. This is possible through decrease of the profit tax. Both owners and workers contribute to the overall profit of the enterprise.

Today, businessmen often say: “We understand that some of your initiatives will not be welcome in the business environment. But we support you because we are tired of living in the criminal world.”

– You said in Kremenchug that four of your relatives ran business. What kind of business is it?

– Look. It is private life of my relatives.

– Yuriy Lutsenko had the same position when he forgot where his wife worked.

– I do not want to say that I do not know where they work. I do not want my relatives to get involved into Ukrainian dirty politics.

– We are a democratic country. We do not fear Kuchma any more!

– We are. But there is the right of privacy. I want my relatives stay out of politics. I can explain why. Most of my relatives have been in prison only because they were my relatives and friends.

Those were the times when my husband, father and I were in prison while my mother and mother-in-law spent long hours in the Prosecutor General’s Office. When I became the Vice PM and started reforms in the energy field my husband was arrested.

Then Leonid Kuchma passed the word through Turchynov: “We will set her free if she stops doing what she was doing.”

But we survived. I am proud of my family. My daughter who then studied abroad was allowed to see her father. But having come to Ukraine she was summoned to the Prosecutor General’s Office.

– But people need to know about your family business. What if they win some tender after you come to power?!

– We have law-enforcement bodies, Interior Ministry, the Prosecutor General’s Office, other controlling organizations.

– But these organizations will be subordinated to you in the event you become the PM. It is public that must control politicians and authority.

– Do you not forget that we are going to grant the controlling rights to the opposition, represented by the Party of Regions? (*laughs*) By the way, the first bill we will pass in the new parliament is the Law on the Opposition.

– But having read this interview readers will notice that you are reluctant to answer a very simple question about your family business. Thus, they may think you conceal something.

– There is nothing to conceal. But I want to protect my family. I know they run a legal business. I am not in power to give preferences to anybody...

– But you are going to be in power...

– When I am in power asked about \$6 million transferred to my husband's firm then I will give an answer.

– What six million are you talking about?

– You mentioned Lutsenko, didn't you? There were accusations of the money transfer. What I want to say is that I will give an answer when asked such a question.

Permanent Link: <http://www.pravda.com.ua/en/news/2007/9/24/8973.htm>

23. Tymoshenko Bloc Accuses Regions Party Of Using Administrative Resources In Arranging Meetings With Electorate Ukrainian News Agency, 24 September 2007

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (BYT) is accusing the Regions Party of using administrative resources to support the Donetsk region population when arranging meetings with electorate.

This follows from a BYT statement, wording of which has become available to Ukrainian News.

In particular, the BYT press service tells that they have documents proving how appearance at the meeting with Regions Party candidates for the Verkhovna Rada deputy was secured on September 21, 2007.

"This telegram, sent to directors of 12 coalmines and undersigned by S.V.Kovaliov deputy head for social issues and public relation at the Artemvuhillia SE. The document directs directors of the mentioned coalmines to appear in person and secure appearance of workers at the meeting with the Regions Party candidate for deputy. The telegram states how many people each coalmine has to delegate for the meeting," reads the statement.

The press service notes that this document witnesses methods the Party of Regions use to ensure its support of people.

As Ukrainian News earlier reported, BYT regional branch states that the Party of Regions instructed its representatives in ballot stations of Donetsk region to vote instead of electors and control over observers.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:

<http://www.ukranews.com/eng/article/68027.html>

24. MP Sivkovych Accusing Presidential Secretariat Of Use Of Security Service In Election Campaign
Ukrainian News Agency, 24 September 2007

Verkhovna Rada deputy of the Party of Regions Volodymyr Sivkovych accuses the Presidential Secretariat of use of the Security Service of Ukraine in the election campaign.

Party of Regions press service disclosed this to Ukrainian News.

According to the deputy, the Security Service creates special operative divisions, which are taking part in the election campaign and violate the law.

«They are acting in accordance with direct orders of the Presidential Secretariat,» Sivkovych said.

He also said that the major task of the groups is to gather maximum of discrediting materials for the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense Bloc and other oppositional forces.

Besides, the deputy said that one of such groups, blocks and tries to eliminate materials on earlier opened criminal cases linked with property embezzlement during supplies to nuclear power plants via Atomkomplekt enterprise.

At the same time, he said that operative groups were also under control of the Presidential Secretariat in 2005-2006.

«Today, the Secretariat directly manages the Security Service, contact with its representatives avoiding acting head of the Security Service Valentyn Nalyvaichenko and makes them to eliminate materials,» the deputy said.

He also said he had submitted a deputy request to the Prosecutor General's Office to check the information.

As Ukrainian News earlier reported, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Moroz had accused the Presidential Secretariat of pressure on the Central Election Commission.

Text available on World Wide Web, URL:
<http://www.ukranews.com/eng/article/68043.html>

25. Ukrainian foreign minister: Ukrainian and Russian relations will not be pro-Russian any longer
REGNUM, 21 September 2007

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk believes that pragmatism must be the main thing in the Ukrainian-Russian relations. Such statement was released by press office of Our Ukraine-People's Defense today, a REGNUM correspondent informs.

“It like in mathematics here: to have a result one must examine the data. Thus, we have the following initial data: we have the longest border with Russia; half of the Ukrainians communicate in Russian; a quarter of the Ukrainians have relatives in Russia; 30% of its trade turnover is with Russia; up to 70% of energy carriers are from Russia. So, what kind of relations can we have with the country? Of course, they cannot be radical, as is a way to nowhere,» Yatsenyuk particularly said. “Another thing is, our relations will not be pro-Russian,» the Ukrainian foreign minister added. “With all my respect and love for Russians,

they have their own country and we have our own country. So, the key thing here is pragmatism first of all. Another thin is deep respect, which, unfortunately, has not been present within last few years.”

Permanent news address: www.regnum.ru/english
