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PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

OSCE, USA criticize election in Ukraine

The OSCE has issued a generally positive assessment of the voting process at the parliamentary election in Ukraine, however it has criticized the establishing of results as not transparent enough. This opinion is presented in a joint statement issued by the head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation, **Walburga Habsburg Douglas**, and the head of the OSCE/ODIHR long-term observation mission, **Audrey Glover**, on 29 October 2012, the news and analysis website Lb.ua has reported.

Among the main violations they have mentioned are abuse of office, a lack of competition and balanced media coverage, non-transparent party financing regulations, and bribery of voters.

Most observers positively assessed the voting process, but criticized the tabulation.

Douglas regretted that this election marked a step backwards on a democratic path for Ukraine, while Glover said that "a democratic process has reversed in Ukraine".

On 31 October, US Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** said that the USA agreed with the conclusions of the OSCE observers who described the parliamentary election in Ukraine as "a step backwards" for the Ukrainian democracy.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry shrugged off the critical statements made by Glover and Douglas as "their personal reflections, [which are] groundless and emotional, but not a result of observation by all delegation members".

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry was also surprised by negative assessments by some US representatives. "It is unclear on which sources our American partners based their assessments," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued on 31 October.

"We regret that the US Secretary of State is trying to link her disagreements with the Ukrainian authorities over the case of ex-Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko** to the assessment of the election in Ukraine," the Foreign Ministry said.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister **Kostyantyn Hryshchenko** said that the US assessments did not fully reflect the election situation in Ukraine. He added that his office would take into account all statements made by international election observers to correct the drawbacks in the future.

The partial use of the first-past-the-post system has somewhat affected the election situation, the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, **Volodymyr Shapoval**, said in an interview with the Dzerkalo Tyzhnya weekly on 2 November 2012.

European Parliament to hear report on Ukrainian parliamentary election on 6 November

The European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs is going to hear a report of the chief of the European Parliament observation mission to the Ukrainian

parliamentary election, **Pawel Kowal**, on 6 November 2012, mass media quoted the EU office in Ukraine as saying on 1 November.

On 29 October, Kowal said the European Parliament was concerned about a lack of transparency in party financing in Ukraine. According to him, the election campaign was active, but parties and candidates faced a tilted playing field.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, on his part, said: "I regret that the OSCE's election observers have reported many shortcomings in Ukraine's parliamentary elections, especially in the run-up to voting. This assessment of the elections will influence our overall evaluation of the situation in Ukraine and the relations between the European Union and its eastern neighbour."

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy **Catherine Ashton** and European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy **Stefan Fuele** said on 30 October that the final assessment would depend on the post-election developments: count of votes, establishment of results and court hearing of election complaints.

The next few weeks will be critical to the future of Ukrainian-European relations, **Volodymyr Kravchenko** suggested in his article for Dzerkalo Tyzhnya on 2 November. "The statement by Ashton-Fuele is the last 'European' warning before the stop button is pushed," he said.

ENEMO: Ukraine's new legislation not working towards fair election

This year's parliamentary election campaign has seen more administrative violations and cases of office abuse than the one in 2006, ENEMO mission chief **Peter Novotny** said on 29 October 2012.

He also said that the mission had documented the cases of bribery of voters, intimidation of candidates and putting pressure on journalists.

In his point of view, the new election legislation did not improve the voting process.

Novotny also mentioned a lack of transparency in the work of constituency and polling station commissions which often held sessions behind closed doors, leaving out observers.

PACE suggests Ukraine shift to proportional election system

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has suggested that Ukraine change its constitution by introducing the proportional system of parliamentary elections with open party lists, the head of the PACE observation mission, **Andreas Gross**, said on 29 October 2012.

"For the first time in their history the Venice Commission and the PACE issued recommendations boiling down to the following: Ukraine should have had a proportional system with open lists," he said.

Gross said: "The 'oligarchisation' of the whole process meant that citizens lost their ownership of the election, as well as their trust in it."

Michael Gahler, a member of the European Parliament with the observation mission from the European People's Party, also said that the Ukrainian people were deprived of a full-fledged democratic election process.

A proportional system with open lists is unlikely to be introduced any time soon, the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, **Volodymyr Shapoval**, said. "Who would want to lose internal corporate leverage? They would rather try to reinstate the first-past-the-post system," he said. "The election system is tailored to suit the interests of the majority."

President says observers issue positive conclusions on election in Ukraine

Observers have been mostly positive in their assessments of the parliamentary election in Ukraine, President **Viktor Yanukovich** said on 29 October 2012.

"I am glad that, according to preliminary conclusions, many Ukrainian and international observers, including the OSCE, gave a positive assessment of the election from the technical point of view. Voters had a wide range of candidates to choose from," he said.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister **Kostyantyn Hryshchenko** also said that "the overwhelming majority of international observers positively assessed the process of voting and count of votes".

Ukrainian Prime Minister **Mykola Azarov** said that neither the government, nor the party of power has anything to do with problems at certain election constituencies. He described the parliamentary election as well-organized, democratic, fair and transparent.

A member of the US observation delegation and vice-president of the National Endowment for Democracy, **Nadia Diuk**, said that Ukraine learnt to ensure the technical side of the election to keep international observers from noticing massive violations on election day. "But the general background was not positive," she said.

After parallel vote count, opposition parties say election results falsified

UDAR party leader **Vitaliy Klitschko** said on 2 November 2012 that his party score had been diminished by 1.5 per cent due to falsifications. "According to our estimates, we had been expecting to get around 15 per cent during the election by party lists. For now we can say we have failed to protect around 1.5 per cent of the votes of our voters. We were deprived of these votes through falsifications," he said. According to a parallel vote count held by United Opposition Fatherland, the pro-presidential Party of Regions received 29.75 per cent of the votes, Fatherland 25.17 per cent, UDAR 12.95 per cent, Freedom 11.18 per cent, and the Communist Party of Ukraine 11.12 per cent.

As of 5 November, having processed 99.95 per cent of vote count reports, the Central Electoral Commission published the following preliminary results of the vote in the multi-seat constituency:

Party of Regions - 30.00 per cent
Fatherland - 25.53 per cent

UDAR - 13.96 per cent
Communist Party - 13.18 per cent
Freedom - 10.44 per cent

According to the preliminary conclusions of the news and analysis website Lb.ua, the Party of Regions will bring to parliament 114 MPs from single-seat constituencies and 72 MPs on party lists, the united opposition 114 and 62 MPs respectively, Freedom 13 and 25 MPs respectively, UDAR 6 and 34 MPs respectively, and the Communist Party will only have 32 MPs elected on its party list. Other 50 MPs elected in single-seat constituencies were either self-nominated or represent smaller parties. There are a total of 450 MPs in the Ukrainian parliament.

The president of the Gorshenin Institute, **Vadym Omelchenko**, in a commentary for Gorshenin Weekly described the parliamentary election results as a quiet revolution.

"Around 30 per cent of voters whom sociologists defined as undecided made their choice in the last days before the vote in favour of opposition candidates and parties. Protest vote was massive. If we take into account that the Communist Party' supporters in fact follow protest sentiments, 70 per cent of votes were those of protest voters. Another proof of radical sentiments is a surge in the rating of the far-right party Freedom," he said.

In Omelchenko's opinion, neither the Ukrainian authorities, nor the opposition understand the scale of this revolution.

"Initially, it can have the effect of 'letting off steam' because the Party of Regions' rating is still objectively high whereas the opposition is not unanimous. On the other hand, the economic situation is worsening and the next protest flash mob can have serious consequences for the Ukrainian authorities," he said.

Joint Cause: Election results falsified in over 30 constituencies

Based on the results of a parallel vote count in over 30 single-seat constituencies where, according to the Central Electoral Commission, pro-government candidates gained victory, the true winners were candidates from the opposition or self-nominated candidates, Joint Cause public movement coordinator **Oleksandr Danylyuk** said on 31 October 2012.

He said the regions where election results were distorted include, in particular, Vinnytsya, Volyn, Khmelnytsky, Zhytomyr, Poltava, Kiev, Kirovohrad and Cherkasy regions.

Opposition to meet international observers, envoys over massive election violations

The opposition is going to seek an urgent meeting with the missions of the OSCE and PACE, ambassadors of European states and the USA because they believe that the Constitution of Ukraine was effectively violated and the parliamentary election must not be declared valid, one of united opposition leaders **Serhiy Sobolev** said on 1 November 2012.

According to him, President **Viktor Yanukovych** shall be held personally responsible for the fraud.

Earlier, MP **Arseniy Yatsenyuk** filed a draft resolution with parliament to investigate the cases of fraud during the parliamentary election.

Jailed Ukrainian ex-premier announces hunger strike to protest against parliamentary election results

On 29 October 2012, Ukraine's jailed former Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko** announced a hunger strike as an act of protest against vote rigging during the recent election to the Verkhovna Rada.

Her lawyer **Serhiy Vlasenko** explained that the goal of Tymoshenko's campaign was not a re-election in Ukraine. Rather, it should be viewed as an available to her way of expressing protest, he added.

In its turn, the Ukrainian Health Ministry asked doctors from the German clinic Charite to come to Ukraine because of Tymoshenko's hunger strike.

The Lb.ua news and analysis website quoted the Health Ministry as saying earlier that German doctors did not plan to arrive in Ukraine to take part in a meeting of a medical commission which will decide whether it makes sense to continue Tymoshenko's hospital treatment.

Top Ukrainian election agency's member says parliamentary polls "dirtiest" in Ukrainian history

The most recent parliamentary election has become the dirtiest in the entire history of independent Ukraine, the deputy head of the Central Electoral Commission, **Zhanna Usenko-Chorna**, said on 1 November 2012.

She added that the problem had to do not with the polling process, which was conducted without irregularities, but with the subsequent vote counting, which shifted the electoral process to a "horrible" phase.

Top Ukrainian election agency might not be able to determine results in some districts

The Ukrainian Central Electoral Commission (CEC) cannot determine results of the recent parliamentary election in certain districts, CEC member **Mykhaylo Okhendovskyy** said on 2 November 2012.

In her turn, the CEC deputy head, **Zhanna Usenko-Chorna**, said that the CEC might decide not to recognize results in certain problematic districts if it discovers the cases of vote rigging and breaches of law during the process of vote counting.

As of 2 November, there were 13 problematic districts in Ukraine. Votes were not counted in eight single-seat constituencies. Accusations of vote rigging and demands of a recount of votes were voiced in five districts where all the votes have been counted by now.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**UKRAINE-EU****Ukraine-EU summit to take place next year**

A Ukraine-EU summit will be held at the beginning of 2013, the EU representative office in Kiev told the Interfax-Ukraine news agency on 30 October 2012. It is expected that the summit will take place either at the end of January or at the beginning of February of the next year.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister **Kostyantyn Hryshchenko** said that the EU was interested in a very busy agenda of the summit and that the issue of the date for holding the event was currently discussed.

UKRAINE-RUSSIA**Russia urges Ukraine to withdraw from Energy Community**

The Ukrainian membership in the Energy Community (EC) is the main obstacle for setting up a consortium with the participation of Russia's Gazprom to manage the Ukrainian gas transport system, Russian ambassador to Ukraine **Mikhail Zurabov** said on 29 October 2012.

The EC puts forward a requirement under which the assets of oil and gas companies should be divided into three types of business: gas transport, its distribution and sale. "It is absolutely unacceptable for the Russian monopoly," the ambassador said. If Ukraine would like to decrease the gas price by using the idea of a consortium, then it needs to drop its membership in the EC, the diplomat explained.

The Kommersant Ukraina business daily quoted a source from the Ukrainian Energy and Coal Industry Ministry as saying that if the Russian gas price is decreased and a joint company with Gazprom is set up, Ukraine intended to make concessions to Russia and not to implement the norms of the EC, according to which the same company is not allowed to both sell and transport gas.

Lawyers believe that Ukraine might risk its membership in the EC if it violates the commitments it has undertaken when it joined the organization.

UKRAINE-WTO**Ukraine not sufficiently comfortable in WTO, says government official**

Ukraine's proposal to the WTO to reconsider import duties that concerned 371 tariff positions is linked to the country's desire to strengthen the protection of domestic manufacturers to the level which old-time member states of the WTO enjoy, the government plenipotentiary for European integration, **Valeriy Pyatnytskyy**, told the Ukrainian newspaper Diloza Stolytsya on 29 October 2012.

"The WTO old timers created comfortable conditions for themselves long time ago.

And we also want to create adequate protection for our manufacturers,” he explained, adding that Ukraine was ready for a gradual revision of tariffs.

Pyatnytskyy also said that the initiative to raise the tariff issue belonged to Ukraine's Federation of Employers, which is currently headed by a co-owner of the RosUkrEnergo company, **Dmytro Firtash**.

DOMESTIC POLITICS

AUTHORITIES

Ukraine's Budget Code amended

On 31 October 2012, Ukrainian President **Viktor Yanukovych** signed the law “On introducing amendments to the Budget Code of Ukraine (on drawing up and implementing the state and local budgets)”.

The RBK Ukrayina reported that the adopted amendments allowed, among other things, to increase the sovereign borrowing in order to cover temporary cash deficit in the state budget.

Ukraine's top banker proposes to change procedure for state procurement

The head of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), **Serhiy Arbuzov**, has proposed to amend the law on state procurement in the part dealing with the activity of the agency he runs, the Ukrainian analytical weekly Komentari reported on 31 October, citing a draft law authored by Arbuzov.

The document proposed to relieve the NBU from the obligation to follow the procedure for state procurement when it carries out operations for managing foreign exchange reserves, as well as when it prints money.

On 31 October, **Anatoliy Shevchuk** was appointed as director of the NBU Mint Court.

Ukrainian president reshuffles boards of directors in two banks

On 1 November 2012, Ukrainian President **Viktor Yanukovych** appointed the head of Kiev's State Tax Service, **Iryna Nosachova**, as member of the board of directors in two state-run banks - State Savings Bank and Ukreximbank. Prior to Nosachova's appointment, this post was occupied by the first deputy prime minister, **Valeriy Khoroshkovskyy**.

State Savings Bank and Ukreximbank are the second and third largest banks in the country, respectively, when it comes to assets. Their boards are appointed by the president, the government and the Verkhovna Rada. The quota for each of them is five members.

The mass media reported that Nosachova is affiliated to the president's son, **Oleksandr Yanukovych**.

Ukraine's tax service wins practically all lawsuits

Ukrainian courts have considered 46,200 lawsuits against the State Tax Service with claims totalling about 1.4bn dollars over the past nine months. In over 46,000 of them with the total amount of claims worth 1.3bn dollars, the tax service won in courts of first instance, the Ukrainian weekly *Dilova Stolytsya* reported on 29 October 2012.

At the same time, the paper observed that the number of people willing to file a lawsuit against the State Tax Service had dropped. During the same period of time last year, 64,746 cases were considered by courts. As many as 64,655 of them were won by the tax service.

The results of a sociological survey conducted by the Gorshenin Institute in November 2010 suggest that the majority of Ukrainians (65.6 percent) believe that many people do not pay taxes in the country because tax rates are too high and businessmen will not be able to work if they pay all the taxes.

Ukraine's ex-premier ready to return to Ukraine from USA where he served prison sentence

Former Ukrainian prime minister, **Pavlo Lazarenko**, has expressed the desire to return to Ukraine after his release from an American prison, his lawyer **Maryna Dolhopola** said on 1 November 2012.

At the same time, the lawyer did not specify when and under which circumstances Lazarenko would return. It is known that the former prime minister, who served over 10 years in prison for financial fraud, was released from an American prison on 1 November. Right after his release, he was detained by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services and transferred to the Federal immigration center.

It was reported earlier that the prosecutor-General's Office said that Lazarenko will be arrested as soon as he comes back to Ukraine. Lawyers of the former prime minister say that in Ukraine Lazarenko faces charges in nearly 50 criminal cases, which include bribing, appropriating state funds and exceeding his authority.

Ukraine's whistleblower promises to give top prosecutor's office tapes with information about businessman's killing

The former major of the State Guard Service, **Mykola Melnychenko**, intends to submit to the Prosecutor-General's Office the tapes which contain information about the killing of Ukrainian politician and businessman **Yevhen Shcherban**. Melnychenko voiced his intention in an interview with the *Segodnya* newspaper on 2 November 2012.

On 24 October, the former major arrived in Ukraine, upon which he was immediately detained. On 26 October, a court heard his case and ruled to release Melnychenko on bail.

Segodnya reported that Melnychenko was currently testifying as a suspect in the criminal cases launched against him over exceeding his authority, divulging state secrets and forging documents, as well as a witness in the case opened over killing of journalist **Heorhiy Gongadze**, in another case that deals with former Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko's** possible involvement in the killing of Shcherban and in some other cases.

OPPOSITION

Media: EC monitors report unjustified arrest, court violations on jailed Ukrainian opposition leaders

The European Parliament's mission to monitor court proceedings involving former Ukrainian Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko** and former Interior Minister **Yuriy Lutsenko** led by former Polish President **Aleksander Kwasniewski** and former President of European Parliament **Pat Cox** has presented a confidential report summarizing monitoring results, the Ukrayinska Pravda news and analysis website said on 30 October 2012.

According to Ukrayinska Pravda's publication, the authors of the report stated that the criminal proceedings against the Ukrainian opposition leaders "were not in full consistency with the international law and standards". Also, the pre-trial arrests of former Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko**, former Interior Minister **Yuriy Lutsenko** and former Defence Minister **Valeriy Ivashchenko** "were not in line with the European Convention on Human rights approved in Ukraine".

The report also dwells on inequality of the sides of prosecution and defence, breach of confidentiality of communication between an accused and his/her defence lawyer.

The report was presented to the European Parliament on 2 October. The monitoring mission plans to resume its work in Ukraine soon.

Prosecutor's office refuses to launch case over video of jailed Ukrainian ex-premier in hospital

The Ukrainian Prosecutor-General's office has refused to launch a criminal case over publication in internet of a video showing former Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko** in a hospital ward, Tymoshenko's defence lawyer, **Serhiy Vlasenko**, said on 1 November 2012.

The Kommersant Ukraina daily reported that the Prosecutor's office in Kharkiv Region, after having looked into the case, came up with a conclusion that the publication of the video online was not an act of violation of Tymoshenko's private life.

On 16 October some Ukrainian media published video showing a woman resembling Yuliya Tymoshenko doing physical exercises in lying position, walking around using a walking frame and occasionally not holding the frame.

OSCE observers not allowed to meet jailed Ukrainian ex-premier

The head of the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe with colleagues tried to visit former Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko** in hospital on 30 October 2012, but were denied access to a meeting.

The formal reason for denying the meeting was Tymoshenko's hunger strike.

OSCE observers believe the denial of access to the meeting with Tymoshenko is an act of violation of human rights.

Media: Ukrainian former premier denied closing case on her former business

The appeal by the former Ukrainian Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko's** to close the criminal case regarding the debt of the United Energy Systems of Ukraine corporation to the Russian Defence Ministry has been rejected, the UNIAN news agency reported on 29 October 2012 referring to a source in law enforcement agencies.

On 23 October Tymoshenko's defence lawyer, **Oleksandr Plakhotnyuk**, said that Tymoshenko filed a written application to the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) asking to close the criminal case.

HUMAN RIGHTS**Amnesty International calls on Ukraine to look into abduction of Russian opposition figure**

Amnesty International has expressed its concern over Ukraine's possible involvement in the abduction of the Russian opposition activist, **Leonid Razvozzhayev**, the organization's press release published on 29 October 2012 reads.

Amnesty International also said that abduction of Leonid Razvozzhayev from Ukraine, allegedly by the Russian Federation's government agents, may have constituted a violation of the country's obligations under international human rights law and the UN Refugee Convention.

The Russian opposition activist, Leonid Razvozzhayev, vanished in Kiev on 19 October outside the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, where he asked for a possibility of political asylum. On 21 October, Razvozzhayev re-appeared in Moscow, where he was arrested. Later Razvozzhayev told that he was kidnapped, handcuffed and tortured by Russian security services.

The Ukrainian state Border Service said that Razvozzhayev left Ukraine "in a normal way" and refused to provide any additional information regarding the case.

ECONOMICS

IMF to resume talks with new Ukrainian government

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Ukraine have not yet discussed any specific conditions for resuming the stand-by programme. The statement was made by Director of the IMF External Relations Department **Gerry Rice** on 1 November 2012.

“Obviously, Ukraine has just had the election, so we look forward to engaging with the new government,” he noted.

A technical mission of the IMF worked in Ukraine from 26 October to 3 November.

Experts of Fitch Ratings note that Ukraine's needs for external financing will grow in 2013, as its repayments to the IMF will rise to 6bn dollars (repayments from both the government and National Bank of Ukraine). Fitch Ratings believes that such an amount may exceed the government's capacity to borrow abroad and, thus, would force Ukraine to seek for partial refinancing from the IMF.

Earlier, on 29 October, head of the parliamentary faction of the Party of Regions **Oleksandr Yefremov** said the question of the dismissal of Prime Minister **Mykola Azarov** will not be considered in the near future.

Ukraine GDP drops, fiscal deficit grows

According to preliminary reports, Ukraine's GDP in the third quarter of 2012 dropped by 1.3 percent as compared to the third quarter of 2011, and contracted by 1.2 percent against the second quarter of 2012, adjusted to seasonal factors, the State Statistics Service reported on 31 October.

At the same time, the agency did not disclose nominal GDP for the third quarter or any further details.

The National Bank of Ukraine believes that the slowdown of the GDP growth was due to Russia's introduction of a recycling tax on Ukrainian cars in September.

The deficit of Ukraine's state budget in September 2012 increased by 46.4 percent and reached 3.05bn dollars over the first nine months, the Finance Ministry reported on 30 October.

Ukraine abandons plan to impose wheat exports ban

The government has not considered and is not planning to make a decision on limiting grain exports, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Social Policy **Serhiy Tihipko** said on 1 November 2012.

Earlier, Minister of Agricultural Policy **Mykola Prysyazhnyuk** said that the

government will introduce a complete ban on exports of wheat from 15 November 2012 because Ukraine is about to use up its export limit (5m tonnes).

Ukraine to double duties on imports from countries outside WTO

The government plans to double the rate of import duties on 7,400 commodities. Such higher rates will apply only to the countries that are not members of the WTO (there are only 13 of such states). The respective draft amendments to the Customs Code have been jointly developed by the Economics Ministry of and Finance Ministry, according to business daily Kommersant Ukraina published on 29 October 2012.

Experts do not rule out abuse by the customs, which can claim that goods from a WTO member state were actually made in another country, and thus, the full rate should be applied to such commodities, the newspaper writes.

ENERGY MARKET

Ukraine ready to start reverse gas supplies from EU

From 1 November 2012, state-run energy company Naftohaz Ukrayiny will be ready to receive gas from the Polish gas transport system to Ukraine, the Dzerkalo Tyzhnya weekly reported on 31 October 2012.

According to the newspaper, Naftohaz Ukrayiny and RWE Supply & Trading (RWE ST, Germany), the largest gas trader in Central and Eastern Europe, have signed a contract for the sale/purchase of natural gas on the Poland-Ukraine border. The term of the contract is from 1 November 2012 to 1 January 2013. Gas supplies to Ukraine should reach 56.74m cu.m.

Energy minister promises to reveal price of Ukrainian gas pipeline in November

The results of the valuation of the Ukrainian gas transport system (GTS) will be available in November 2012, Energy Minister **Yuriy Boyko** said on 31 October.

The valuation of the Ukrainian GTS is performed by Baker Tilly Ukraine EC. The company had to complete the valuation by 1 August 2012.

Firtash's Ostchem buys over 6bn cu.m. of Russian gas

Imports of natural gas to Ukraine in January-September 2012 amounted to 24.6bn **cu.m.** Of this amount, according to the Energy Ministry, 6.1bn **cu.m.** were purchased by Ostchem Holding, which is controlled by businessman **Dmytro Firtash**, and the rest went to state-run energy company Naftohaz Ukrayiny, news and analysis website Lb.ua reported on 2 November.

SOCIETY**Website Lb.ua suffers DDoS attack**

On 2 November 2012, news and analysis website Lb.ua underwent a massive DDoS attack, which lasted for about two hours. At present, the editorial staff has no information about who is trying to disrupt work of the website. It is known that the attack was launched from foreign servers, and its power exceeded 1 gigabit per second.

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