

Gorshenin Veekly

Gorshenin IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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Russia cautions Ukraine against setting up free trade area with EU

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has warned Ukraine about the imposition of restrictions on Ukrainian imports.

"If Ukraine sets up a free trade area with the European Union (EU) and is forced to yield on many positions that are sensitive for the Ukrainian economy, then it will obviously expect that these products go to the Russian market. However, we will not be able to afford to do this," he said. Putin noted that Russia would be forced to start drawing a "boarder" with Ukraine.

At the same time, the Russian Prime Minister put forward his own version of the negotiations with Europe: "Holding talks with the EU within the Common Economic Space (CES) or the Customs Union (CU) is an absolutely different matter. The positions are totally different, more beneficial." He also stated that Russia would welcome negotiations on Ukraine's joining of the CU.

For his part, Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said that Ukraine continued the talks with the EU on the creation of a free trade area. "We persistently conduct negotiations with representatives of the European Commission with the aim of establishing a free trade area. Ukraine raised the level of the work group that holds these negotiations and appointed First Deputy Prime Minister and Economic Development and Trade Minister Andriy Kluyev," Azarov explained. The head of the Ukrainian government also noted that the negotiations had not yet led to a "breakthrough" in the creation of a free trade area. At the same time, according to him, Ukraine remains optimistic and hopes to find solutions to all the problems that slow this process down.

An MP of the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), Stepan Kurpyl, issued harsh criticism of Putin's statement about possible restrictions on the Ukrainian products. "Speaking frankly and without diplomatic curtseys, this is basic blackmailing. It is impossible to call many things that have been going on other than subjugation to the Russian policy. In this statement, Putin practically vetoed Ukraine's right for independent foreign policy," the MP of the YTB said.

According to an MP of the Party of Regions, Inna Bohoslovska, Putin's intention to impose restrictive sanctions against the Ukrainian products in case Kiev and the EU set up a free trade area proves that Russia attempts to completely subjugate Ukraine. At the same time, she noted that it was really important for Ukraine to understand what the Belarusian and Kazakh joining of the CU brought. "So far, a preliminary analysis shows that these countries have lost much," she explained. Yet, Bohoslovska added that Russian President Dmitriy Medvedev, unlike Putin, abstains from harsh statements about Ukraine. "President Medvedev's policy is significantly more constructive than that of Putin," she concluded.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Hryshchenko stated that Ukraine will conduct independent policy towards a free trade area with the EU. He added that relations with Russia, in particular, in the customs area, should not constrain negotiations and arrangements on signing an association agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

According to Gorshenin Institute expert Volodymyr Zastava, the recent statements of the Ukrainian government members on the high priority of a free trade area with the EU and the adoption of several legislation amendments, which are geared towards aligning Ukrainian economic standards with those in the EU, show a certain dynamic, which can be detected in the Ukrainian-EU relations. "Moscow



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cannot not notice that. At the same time, there is no considerable progress in the negotiations about Ukraine's joining the CU with Russia. That is why Putin's statement can be qualified as a demarche that Ukraine should ignore", the expert said.

New corruption schemes set up in state purchasing sector -Ukrainian mass media

Parliament has adopted foundational government draft law on simplifying the procedure for state purchasing.

In particular, it approved as a foundation draft law No 7532 "On amending certain Ukrainian legislative acts on state purchasing."

Just to remind you, the EU suspended delivering state budget assistance worth 116m dollars to Ukraine in February 2011 as a result of the amendments to the state purchasing procedure. To resolve the issue with the EU, the Ukrainian government has drawn up draft law No 7532, which accounts for all the EU recommendations regarding the procedure for state purchasing.

At the same time, the Ukrainian media say that this draft law includes several provisions which create new corruption mechanisms in the sector of state purchases.

In particular, the government suggests that state-run companies and corporations with the state share of over 50 percent are not regulated by the law on state purchases. Their activity will be further regulated by a separate government act.

Draft law No 7532 also cancels the requirement to publish practically all the purchase-related documents: reports on the results of purchasing procedures and bidding protocols. These documents publish information about the participants of tenders and their price offers.

This draft also expands a list of conditions for making purchases from one participant.

According to deputy parliamentary speaker Mykola Tomenko, the draft law actually cancels the democratic and transparent purchasing procedure.

Earlier, the union of public organizations "For the integrity of state purchases in Ukraine" published an open letter to the Ukrainian government and representatives of international organizations. The letter stated that draft law 7532 would improve conditions for corruption and deteriorate the situation with transparency and the possibility of public control over state purchases.

At the same time, the World Bank and the European Commission approved the draft law. According to the media, such actions of representatives of international organizations demonstrate either that they are poorly informed regarding the content of the draft law or that they are corrupt.

Just to remind you, the Parliament is currently debating on draft law No 7562 "On state guarantees for the execution of court rulings." According to the head of the parliamentary committee for national security and defense, Anatoliy Hrytsenko, the "concluding remarks and transitional clauses" part of the draft law contains a provision, which grants the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers the right to determine which facilities of the main state-run companies of the pipeline transportation can be privatized or nationalized. At the same time, there are no restrictions regarding

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strategic pipelines of the gas transportation system and underground gas storage facilities.

President Viktor Yanukovych intends to return political fugitives to Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovych has heard a report of the law-enforcement leadership regarding the return of Ukrainian politicians who migrated abroad to Ukraine.

"I was hearing a report today. So I asked one of the chiefs of the law-enforcement bodies, 'Can't you? But you know where he is. Can't you bring him to Ukraine or you don't know how this is done?' And they told me, 'Viktor Fedorovych, if someone finds out, God forbid, that we have sent our people to this country, there will immediately appear grounds in accordance with all the international rules to grant him political asylum.' We investigated his case. Some of these people have already been jailed for these affairs and there even have been trials already, but he is speaking about asylum", the President said.

According to the Ukrainian media, the matter at hand has to do with the former head of the State Material Reserve Committee, Mykhaylo Pozhyvanov, who is seeking asylum in Austria. A criminal case against him is launched in Ukraine.

Just to remind you, Ukraine's former Minister of Economy Bohdan Danylyshyn was granted political asylum in the Czech Republic last year.

Parliament sets up temporary investigation commission to investigate possible treason by former Prime Minister Yuliya **Tymoshenko**

Leader of the Batkivschyna party Yuliya Tymoshenko might be charged with treason.

In particular, on 16 March 2011, Parliament adopted a decision to set up an investigative commission to check if there were signs of state treason regarding economic security of Ukraine in the gas agreements between the Naftohaz Ukrayiny and Russia's Gazprom.

An MP of the YTB, **Serhiy Mishchenko**, believes that this investigation commission was set up to put pressure on the former Prime Minister. "This is a planned action. Today, the matter is created to put pressure on opposition leader Tymoshenko through this investigation commission", Mishchenko said. According to him, the current government previously attempted to discredit Tymoshenko by the criminal cases launched against her by the Prosecutor-General's Office (PGO). "If they cannot manage to do it through the criminal cases, they resort to this method," the MP said.

European People's Party should learn more about Ukraine the Party of Regions

The first deputy head of the parliamentary committee on European integration, Volodymyr Vecherko, believes that Ukraine has no problem with the freedom of speech.

According to the Party of Regions MP, representatives of the European People's Party (EPP) should have a better understanding of Ukraine's reality before subjecting its situation with the freedom of speech to harsh criticism. He added that the recent statements of the EPP representatives looked rather biased.

We would like to note that the EPP representatives expressed on multiple occasions concern about infringements on the freedom of speech in Ukraine.

Just to remind you, on 7 March 2011, EPP President Wilfried Martens and US Senator John McCain addressed the Ukrainian government with a request to lift the restrictions on the freedom of movement, which are currently imposed on leader of the Batkivschyna party **Tymoshenko**. They also urged Ukraine to reconsider those of its actions, which could be interpreted as subjecting the opposition leaders to selective justice.

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For his part, the first deputy head of the Party of Regions parliamentary faction, Mykhaylo Chechetov, said that the statement issued by McCain and Martens openly interfered into Ukraine's domestic affairs and put pressure on the investigation bodies.

Number of Ukrainian billionaires triples over year According to the Fokus magazine, the total number of billionaires in Ukraine has increased to 21 in 2011, while their net worth is estimated at 58bn dollars.

In 2011, the Fokus ranking included 25 new names. The wealthiest newcomers are a close to the president MP of the Party of Regions, Yuriy Ivanyushchenko, and the head of the National Bank of Ukraine, **Serhiy Arbuzov**. Experts of the rating estimated the net worth of each of them at 190m dollars.

Five representatives of the executive with the total fortune of 2.6bn dollars were also included into the rating. There were 16 MPs with a total net worth of 19bn dollars in the rating, too. A huge proportion of this sum belongs to the wealthiest Ukrainian, a Party of Regions MP, Rinat Akhmetov.

Just to remind you, the Forbes magazine estimated R. Akhmetov's fortune at 16bn dollars.

The net worth of Deputy Prime Minister **Andriv Klyuvev** and his brother **Serhiv** is estimated at 900.8m dollars (383.8m dollars in 2010), Deputy Pime Minister Serhiy Tihipko 795.5m dollars (571.9m dollars in 2010), the head of the Security Service of Ukraine, Valeriy Khoroshkovskyy, 430.1m dollars (357.3 dollars in 2010), Deputy Prime Minister Borys Kolesnikov 292.5m dollars (254.2m dollars in 2010).

Opposition favors denouncing Ukrainian-Russian agreement on cooperation in completion of construction of generating units of 3 and 4 of Khmelnytskyy nuclear plant

The opposition wants to abrogate an atomic agreement with Russia.

The intergovernmental Ukrainian-Russian agreement on cooperation to complete the construction of generating units 3 and 4 of the Khmelnytskyy nuclear power plant should be revoked. The parliamentary draft resolution to this effect was registered by the head of the parliamentary faction For Ukraine, Vyacheslav **Kyrylenko**, who used to belong to **Viktor Yushchenko's** party Our Ukraine.

According to him, the aforementioned agreement is not transparent and beneficial to Ukraine from the perspective of its economic interests and energy security. Kyrylenko said that the agreement specified no financial conditions for receiving Russian loans for the construction of the generating units. At the same time, he noted that the document contained unjustified and excessive responsibilities for the Ukrainian party, which envisaged, in particular, purchasing 100 percent of nuclear fuel exclusively from Russia.

Kyrylenko believes that the funds required for the construction of the generating units can be spent more effectively on lowering the consumption of energy by the Ukrainian industry, including the implementation of energy-saving technologies and the development of renewable energy.

Donetsk-based companies with ties to **Deputy Prime Minister** have received several orders for Euro-2012 media

The Donetsk-based company Donspetsmontazh has received an order to construct an airtraffic-controlling tower at the Donetsk airport worth over 12.55m dollars without a tender.

The national agency on the preparation and staging in Ukraine the final of the European football championship Euro 2012 will allocate 12.55m dollars for the construction of an airtraffic-controlling tower on the territory of the communal



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company International Airport Donetsk, an official portal of the Bulletin of State purchases reported. The works will be done by the state-run company without bidding following the procedure for purchasing from the only participant Donspetsmontazh.

It is worth noting that the Donbassinformzvyazokservis company has won a tender for the construction of a local telephone exchange for the Olimpiyskyy (Olympics) national sports complex for 39.45m dollars.

Additionally, the Altkom company has been building a stadium and an airport for Euro 2012 in Lviv since April 2010. This company will also construct the Lviv-Krakovets highway. It became the general contractor of the highway project without bidding in autumn 2010.

According to the information of the Ukrainian media, all these companies have ties to Deputy Prime Minister Kolesnikov.

Government destroys European Party of Ukraine - Mykola Katervnchuk

The leader of the European Party of Ukraine, MP Mykola Katerynchuk, said that the authorities attempt to destroy his party.

"The last piece of evidence proving such a statement is an attempt of the Kiev Desnyanskyy district tax inspectorate to liquidate one of the most populous regional organizations of our party, which has a lot of branches - Kyiv", the statement of the EPU said.

Katerynchyk added that the second piece of evidence proving the pressure on the party leaders was an inspection of the companies owned by the head of Volyn regional organization of the EPU, a member of the Lutsk city council, Olena Holeva, by a prosecutor's office.

Consequently, the EPU said that both its members and the party as a whole were systematically oppressed and obstructed.

Violations worth over 160m dollars detected in Energy and Coal **Industry Ministry's** activity

The State control and audit inspectorate have revealed that the companies of the Energy and Coal Industry Ministry committed violations estimated at over 1.6m dollars.

Among such violations is, in particular, using state funds to buy goods, works and services without a tender and other.

Nafohaz Ukrayiny suffers record revenue loss in 2010

In 2010, Nafohaz Ukrayiny suffered the biggest since its creation revenue loss of 2.7bn dollars.

According to a Nafohaz Ukrayiny report, the largest part of the loss was accumulated during the last quarter of 2010.

Just to remind you, Nafohaz Ukrayiny gave 5bn cu.m out of 12.1bn cu.m. gas back to RosUkrEnerho, which it needs to hand over to the trader following the ruling of the Stockholm Arbitrary court. According to Nafohaz Ukrayiny, the cost of this volume is 2,77bn dollars.

As of beginning of March 2011, Nafohaz Ukrayiny gave approximately 7bn cu.m. gas back to RosUkrEnerho. The rest of the gas should be returned by the end of 2011.

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Retirement reform adoption delayed until April 2011

The leader of the parliamentary faction Party of Regions, Oleksandr Yefremov, said that the Parliament has delayed a debate of retirement reform.

According to him, the next parliamentary session, which will commence on 5 April 2011, will not debate retirement reform.

"Currently, we are working with this document and it raises many issues. We continue working. When we are ready, we will support its transfer to parliament," he said.

President of the European Commission, **Belarusian Prime** Minister to attend conference on occasion of 25th anniversary of Chernobyl accident -**Presidential Administration of** Ukraine

President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso will inaugurate the conference on the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.

Chief of the Presidential Admonistration of Ukraine Serhiy Liovochkin reported about that. According to him, Russia and Belarus will be represented at the international conference by their prime-ministers.

Just to remind you, Barroso stated that he was ready to participate in the international conference "Twenty-five years after Chernobyl accident: Future security" on condition that Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka does not attend it. "This is a major condition," Barroso said.

We would like to note that the Belarusian government is among the co-organizers of the conference together with Ukraine, Russia, European Commission, the Council of Europe and other organizations. At the same time, the EU parliament adopted a resolution regarding A. Lukashenka over the rigged election and prosecution of opposition in this country.

Just to remind you, the conference "Twenty-five years after Chernobyl accident: Future security" will be held on 17-21 April 2011.

New Ukrtelekom owner denies information about change of owners

The Austrian investment fund EPIC Goldscheider & Wurmböck (EPIC) continues to remain the sole Ukrtelekom owner.

In particular, the purchaser of the controlling interest of Ukrtelekom, EPIC Services Ukraine (ESU), stated that it has not changed its owner and that it belonged to EPIC. Previously, the Ukrainian media reported that ESU's owner had changed shortly before it applied for the participation in the Ukrtelekom privatization and that its 100% ownership belonged to the Cyprus-based company Epic Telecom Invest Ltd (ETI), whose founders are unidentified.

EPIC explained that the transfer of rights for ESU to ETI was done to optimize the structure of the holding before Ukrtelekom's privatization. At the same time, EPIC's managing partner **Peter Goldscheider** noted that "it is weird that such an insignificant development could attract attention."

Just to remind you, the State Property Fund of Ukraine and the limited company ESU signed an official purchase-sale agreement on 92.8 % of the Ukrtelekom open joint-stock company's shares on 11 March 2011. Ukrtelekom was sold for 1.33bn dollars.

President Yanukovych approves a plan for military drills Ukrainian President Yanukovych has approved a plan to conduct multinational military drills with the participation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in 2011.

Under the plan, Ukraine and the USA will conduct the exercises Sea Breeze-2011 in June-October 2011, Ukraine and Russia will conduct the Fairway of Peace-2011 drills in May-June and others.



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Ukraine lowers position in arms export rating

Ukraine no longer belongs to the top ten world arms exporters, according to a rating of the Stockholm-based international research center SIPRI.

In particular, over the past five years, Ukraine lowered its position from the 10th to the 12th. The director of the SIPRI Arms Transfers program, **Paul Holtom**, explained this by the fact that Ukraine has increased the volume of arms transfers over the past few years.

According to SIPRI, Ukraine sells most weapons to Azerbaijan, Georgia and China. Additionally, it exports arms to such African states as South Sudan, the Republic of Congo and other.

An arms expert, the editor-in-chief of the Defense Express journal, **Serhiy Zhurets**, believes that the numbers provided by SIPRI might not correspond to reality. "SIPRI gives approximate estimates of arms transfers because they have a special methodology, which differs from the actual price of sold weapons. It is too early to say whether we are in the top ten countries or not since the country has not yet published the official results of 2010. I think this amount will be approximately 2bn dollars," the expert said.



"NUCLEAR SAFETY IN UKRAINE" – SURVEY

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Ukrainians fear a serious accident at country's nuclear power plants

The Gorshenin Institute held a telephone public opinion poll regarding nuclear safety in Ukraine on 15 and 16 March 2011. A total of 1,000 respondents aged over 18 were selected randomly in all regional centres of Ukraine, in Kiev and Sevastopol. Quotas were established based on respondents' age, sex and area of residence. Sample error does not exceed 3.2%.

According to the results of this national survey Gorshenin Institute experts came to the following conclusions:

Most Ukrainians believe nuclear power plants are environmentally unsafe.

Thus, 40.8 per cent of those polled believe nuclear power plants are definitely hazardous and 25.4 per cent think they are rather hazardous. Another 11.3 per cent of the respondents said nuclear power plants are environmentally safe and 15.8 per cent believe the plants are rather safe. A total of 6.7 per cent of those polled gave no answer to the question.

A total of 70.2 per cent of the polled Ukrainians fear a possible accident at the country's nuclear power plants. Of that number, 41.8 per cent are definitely affraid of an accident and another 28.4 per cent say they rather fear nuclear accidents. Meanwhile, 8.1 per cent of the respondents have no fears of this kind of threat at all and 13.2 per cent said they rather have no fear of it. A total of 8.5 per cent of those polled gave no answer to the question.

More than a half of Ukrainians (54.9 per cent) consider the events at Japanese nuclear power plants may adversely affect their personal health or health of their relatives and friends. Thus, 32.3 per cent of the respondents say they have fears of the effect on health and another 22.6 per cent say they are rather afraid of the health effect; 15.1 per cent say they rather have no fear and 23.2 per cent of those polled are not afraid of the effect on health at all. A total of 6.8 per cent of those polled gave no answer to the question.

Most of the respondents believe Ukraine's energy policy shall be based on utilizing alternative energy sources (38.7 per cent of those polled) and oil and gas deposits located inside the country (28.8 per cent). Another 17.4 per cent of the respondents indicate their support to the development of the coal mining industry and 13.6 per cent – to hydro stations. It is only 5.2 per cent of the respondents who support construction of new nuclear power plants in Ukraine. A total of 19.6 per cent of those polled gave no answer to the question.

Appendix

What do you think of environmental safety of the Ukrainian nuclear power plants?

- Definitely unsafe 40.8%
- Rather unsafe 25.4%
- Rather safe 15.8%
- Definitely safe 11.3%
- No answer 6.7%

Do you have fears of a serious accident at one of the Ukrainian nuclear power plants?

• Definitely yes – 41.8%



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- Rather yes 28.4%
- Rather no 13.2%
- Definitely no 8.1%
- No answer 8.5%

Are you afraid that the accidents at Japanese nuclear power plants may affect your personal health or health of your relatives and friends?

- Afraid very much 32.3%
- Rather afraid 22.6%
- Rather not afraid- 15.1%
- Not afraid at all 23.2%
- No answer 6.8%

What do you think the Ukrainian energy policy shall be based on?

(two answers maximum, please)

- Development of alternative sources of energy (including alternative fuel) 38.7%
- Development of local deposits of oil and gas 28.8%
- Development of coal mining 17.4%
- Hydro power plants 13.6%
- Construction of new nuclear power plants 5.2%
- No answer 19.6%



POTENTIAL IMPACT OF EURONEST ON THE EU-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS – expert poll

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Ukraine deserves a special partnership with the EU - experts

Anticipating the first meeting of the Eastern Partnership's Parliamentary Assembly (Euronest), Gorshenin Institute asked experts about its potential impact on the development of the EU-Ukrainian relations, its possible outcome without the participation of Belarus, and Ukraine's chances for the EU integration when compared with neighboring states.

According to a Ukrainian MP, the head of the parliamentary committee on the European integration and former Ukrainian Foreign Minister, Borys Tarasyuk, it is still too early to discuss the impact that the establishment of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly might have since it has not convened yet. However, the diplomat did point out to several positive factors. "The Euronest's parliamentary mode of operation will unambiguously define the status of its participants as 'Eastern partners of Europe,' to which Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union (according to which any state can submit a request to become a member of the EU editor) can be applied," he said. Tarasyuk emphasized that over the past year, the issue with the Belarusian participation in the assembly has been the most important and the only impediment to the start of the Euronest work. According to him, the Ukrainian delegation drew up an alternative plan although the Belarusian party turned it down. "However, all the participants of the convention realize that the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly cannot be made hostage to the Belarusian issue. In this respect, considering the circumstances which developed after the events in Minsk on 19 December 2010, a decision was taken to convene the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly without inviting Belarus at this stage, yet with reserving for it the ten seats to which it is entitled," the parliamentarian explained. Commenting on a possibility that Moldova's achievements on the path towards the integration into the EU diminish Ukraine's chances for the EU membership, the diplomat believes that it is impossible to compare Ukraine, which has 46m people, with Moldova, whose population is only 4.3m people. "Given its economic potential and interests, Ukraine should follow a negotiation procedure that is substantially harder than the one for Moldova. However, Ukraine still remains the leader among the Eastern Partnership countries. If we show progress in doing our 'homework' and prevent the curtailment of democracy, Ukraine should not be worried about the pace of its integration into the EU," the expert concluded.

The head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's information policy department, **Oleh Voloshyn**, is certain that Ukraine deserves a distinct and special partnership with the EU. "Against this background, we are quite cautious when it comes to any form of cooperation that places us in the same position as Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, which have less viable prospects for joining the EU. Actually, direct cooperation with the European Parliament and interaction with its factions are way more important for us. That is why Euronest is an institution that plays only a secondary role for us," he noted. As regards Belarus, the diplomat once again mentioned that Ukraine's stance was unambiguous and emphasized that it did not have to support the EU's position on everything. "We understand the concern that the EU expresses about the state of democracy in Belarus. We did convey it to our Belarusian partners. However, Ukraine is not obliged to agree with the EU about all the matters since it is certainly not a candidate for the EU membership. Our cooperation with Belarus has distinct characteristics; we have a great deal of trade and economic interactions. We share an ancient history, it is our neighbor and a people close to us. This all makes Ukraine naturally interested in serving as an intermediary between the EU and Belarus. We believe that any isolation of Belarus



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would be counterproductive. We hope that the Belarusian leadership will show good will and make up with the EU. Ukraine is willing to help with this. Belarus and the EU are neighbors and they cannot avoid talking to each other," the diplomat said. At the same time, Voloshyn is less optimistic about Moldova's bid for the EU integration. "We do not compete with Moldova. Since there is really no point in comparing the prospects of both countries, it is ridiculous to talk about the competition," the diplomat opined.

The head of the Public Expert Council Ukraine-EU, Oleh Rybachuk, considers the project very abstract. "The major problem with the Eastern Partnership is lack of preciseness about it. Is it a tool for solidifying the good-neighbor relations with the EU or is it a tool that makes every state participant one step closer to the membership? Brussels cannot answer these questions," the expert stated. Rybachuk believes that the EU does not have a unified approach towards Belarus either. According to him, Ukraine neither fully agrees with the EU about foreign policy nor has a clearly outlined position of its own on these matters. "Prime Minister Azarov's clumsy attempts to make excuses that there was not enough time to support the Visegrad Four in their unified position on Belarus makes me laugh," the expert said. According to him, Ukraine is missing its chance to join the EU not because Moldova tries better but because Ukraine does nothing to promote its position. "The Moldovan team in Brussels is small but influential. It works to stay ahead of the curve. They move petitions forward very fast and work for the long-term outcome, instead of merely waiting for an invitation. It is absolutely the opposite in Ukraine. Ukraine does not have mechanisms, people, centers – everything is out of balance. However, any state that does not proclaim its intention to join the EU but really strives to make its membership goals more attainable, stands a great chance," Rybachuk concluded.

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