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INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL**UKRAINE-WORLD****Ukrainian president maps domestic, foreign policy priorities**

On 3 October 2012, President **Viktor Yanukovych** met in Kiev the heads of Ukraine's diplomatic offices abroad. The meeting was also attended by OSCE Secretary-General **Lamberto Zannier** and Turkish Foreign Minister **Ahmet Davutoglu**, according to a report by the news and analysis portal Lb.ua.

In his speech Yanukovych focused on the parliamentary election Ukraine is holding on 28 October. He said that the authorities were watching closely to make sure it is held in line with the law. Conditions are equal for all parties and candidates, while violations are a result of emotions, he added. He said that he hoped that efforts to amend the constitution would be stepped up after the parliamentary polls.

Speaking about the foreign policy, the president said that Eurointegration and the signing of an association agreement with the EU remain Ukraine's strategic priorities. He also ruled out any form of pressure on Ukraine as unacceptable.

The president also said that the authorities were planning to continue fighting corruption regardless of some recent "divergence" in the news.

He wondered why journalists chose not to follow the suit of the Prosecutor-General's Office investigating "new corruption crimes" committed by former Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko**, but instead were trying to find traces of corruption in the actions of the incumbent authorities, LIGABusinessInform quoted him as saying.

"We want corrupt officials to seek defence using legal, not political means," he said. (Yanukovych repeated this statement in various forms throughout his speech, the business daily Kommersant Ukraina said.) He added that Foreign Minister **Kostyantyn Hryshchenko** would provide diplomats with detailed instructions regarding the Ukrainian government's position on the convicted politicians.

He said that Ukraine cared for positive dynamics in relations with not only traditional "global players", but also with new world and regional leaders. Among them are China, Brazil, India, Korea, Kazakhstan, Vietnam and Argentina. Strategic relations with the USA and Russia remain a priority.

UKRAINE-USA**Ukrainian prosecutor tells US Congress ex-premier complicit in four murders**

First Deputy Prosecutor-General **Renat Kuzmin** said in an open letter to the US Congress on 3 October 2012 that former Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko** was involved in organizing the murder of **Yevhen Shcherban** and three more people in 1996, the news and analysis website Lb.ua has reported.

Kuzmin said that the US Senate's call to terminate the criminal prosecution of Yuliya Tymoshenko, including the case of organizing the assassination of Shcherban, could mean "the American authorities wish to hinder establishing the truth".

Kuzmin suggested that the USA received one-sided information about Tymoshenko, and said he was ready to provide the Congress with any available materials of the case.

He also noted that his office has so far failed to obtain a US permit to question former Ukrainian Prime Minister **Pavlo Lazarenko** in the murder case of Yevhen Shcherban.

The USA has not provided any comments on Kuzmin's open letter yet.

On 2 October 2012, Foreign Minister **Kostyantyn Hryshchenko** told the heads of Ukraine's offices abroad that the country was ready for "critical dialogue" with the USA.

A day earlier the news portal LIGABusinessInform quoted the US Department of State as saying the USA did not intend to impose individual sanctions on Ukrainian officials.

USA may start issuing 10-year visas to Ukrainians soon

Ukraine has fulfilled all the required pre-conditions for the implementation of 10-year US visas for Ukrainians, Ukraine's ambassador to the USA, **Oleksandr Motsyk**, said on 4 October 2012.

"Now we are waiting for an internal approval in the USA by the US Department of State and Department of Justice," Motsyk said.

UKRAINE-EU

Mass media say Yanukovych cuts down on EU visits

In 2012 Ukrainian President **Viktor Yanukovych** cut down on his visits to the EU compared to the previous years, the popular daily Segodnya said on 4 October 2012.

According to its estimates, the president paid 10 visits to the EU in 2010, nine in 2011 and three in 2012, two of the latter being to the international summits in Davos and in Munich.

The president has no more EU visits on this year's travel agenda as far as the daily is aware.

By comparison, the frequency of his visits to the USA remains the same, the paper adds.

Yeliseyev: EU probing into visa abuse against Ukrainians

The EU is launching an investigation into abuses during the issuance of visas to Ukrainians by certain embassies of EU member states, Ukraine's envoy to the EU, **Kostyantyn Yeliseyev**, said on 3 October 2012.

He said that he raised the issue at a recent meeting with EU Commissioner **Cecilia Malmstroem**.

At its latest session on 1-5 October, the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, acting at Ukraine's request, launched a procedure to monitor the visa problem. Ukrainian MP **Oleksiy Plotnikov** was appointed a rapporteur on the matter.

EU parliament suspends court proceedings monitoring mission in Ukraine

The European parliament has decided to suspend the monitoring mission over the court proceedings regarding Ukrainian opposition figures, former Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko** and former Interior Minister **Yuriy Lutsenko**, implemented by former Polish President **Alexander Kwasniewski** and former Head of European Parliament, **Pat Cox**, for the time of the parliamentary election in Ukraine, European Parliament President, **Martin Schulz**, said on 2 October 2012.

UKRAINE-RUSSIA

President orders preparing Black Sea Fleet, sea border delineation agreements for signing

Ukrainian President **Viktor Yanukovich** has issued an instruction to prepare for signing the agreements on the stationing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on the Ukrainian territory and on the Ukrainian-Russian border delineation in the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov, and in the Kerch Strait, the president's advisor, **Andriy Honcharuk**, said on 1 October 2012.

Ukraine's ambassador to Russia, **Volodymyr Yelchenko**, in an interview with the Lb.ua news portal on 5 October failed to say when an agreement on the sea border delineation was planned to be reached.

Hearing of Ukraine-Russia dispute on energy company's debt postponed

On 4 October 2012, the Kiev economic court of appeal postponed a hearing of the lawsuit filed by the Ukrainian Justice Ministry against a court ruling obliging the Ukrainian government to pay the Russian Defence Ministry over 390m dollars incurred as a debt by the United Energy Systems of Ukraine corporation.

The next hearing is scheduled for 11 October.

The Security Service of Ukraine opened a criminal case against former Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko** over the damages caused to Ukraine by the United Energy Systems of Ukraine which she headed in 1990s.

UKRAINE-CIS

Kazakhstan ratifies CIS Free Trade Deal with reservations for Ukraine

Kazakhstan ratified the CIS Free Trade Agreement on 4 October 2012.

"The provisions of the agreement provide for tax-free trade of almost all goods apart for some types of goods. For instance, duties will be imposed on white sugar and vodka imported from Ukraine," the explanatory note to the agreement reads.

The CIS Free Trade Agreement came in force for Ukraine on 20 September 2012.

UKRAINE-DNIESTER REGION**Moldova's breakaway region accuses Ukraine of land grabs**

The Supreme Council [parliament] of the Moldova's breakaway Dniester region has accused Ukraine of unilateral demarcation of a section of the state border between Ukraine and Moldova, the Dniester region parliament's press service said on 4 October 2012.

Members of parliament asked the Dniester region president, **Yevgeniy Shevchuk**, of initiating negotiations with Ukraine to develop a mechanism for involvement of Dniester region in equal participation of the border demarcation process.

DOMESTIC POLICAL**UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES****Parliament may lose power to appoint judges**

The presidential administration has suggested that the Constitutional Assembly amend the Constitution to strip parliament of the right to appoint judges.

Presidential advisor **Andriy Portnov** said on 4 October that the presidential administration would rather leave the right to appoint judges with the Supreme Qualification Commission of Judges, the Supreme Justice Council and the president.

Portnov added that the president's office also suggested stripping parliament of the right to bring judges to criminal account. It wants these functions to be transferred to the Supreme Qualification Commission of Judges and the Supreme Justice Council.

Earlier the presidential administration suggested that the rules of forming the Supreme Justice Council be changed by giving the majority of seats to representatives of the judicial corps.

The head of the parliamentary committee for law enforcement, opposition Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc MP **Viktor Shvets**, said that "stripping parliament of the right to appoint judges would automatically made them dependent on the presidential administration".

A member of the parliamentary committee for justice, pro-presidential Party of Regions MP **Valeriy Bondyk**, in his turn, said that the changes suggested by the presidential administration would only limit the leverage of one branch of power over the other.

Ukraine introduces biometric passports

On 2 October 2012, parliament adopted in the second reading the bill on biometric passports.

According to it, Ukraine will stop issuing passports to its citizens as of 1 January 2013. They will be replaced by "passport cards" which will be issued to citizens immediately after their birth and updated every 10 years.

The document is expected to contain biometric data. It is up to the Cabinet of Ministers to decide how much information they should contain and on other technical requirements.

The introduction of biometric passports was one of the conditions Ukraine had to meet to liberalize visa regulations with the EU.

Foreigners allowed to buy land in Ukraine

On 2 October 2012, parliament adopted in the second reading the bill expanding the range of persons allowed to buy land plots.

In particular, the bill contains a clause allowing foreigners and people without citizenship, as well as companies with foreign capital, to buy non-farming land on which immovable property they own is located.

On the same day, 2 October, parliament refused to prolong the ban on the sale of farmland until 2014, which expires this year.

The deputy head of the parliamentary committee for agrarian policy and land relations, MP **Valeriy Bevzenko**, said in an exclusive commentary to the news portal Lb.ua that parliament's refusal to prolong the moratorium was not final.

Party of Regions expects 2013 budget to be adopted after polls

The law on the 2013 state budget will be adopted by the current composition of parliament, although after the parliamentary polls are held, the head of the pro-presidential Party of Regions parliamentary faction, **Oleksandr Yefremov**, said on 2 October 2012.

On 3 October, President **Viktor Yanukovych** said that the 2013 budget should be adopted in November.

Southern Customs Office chief sacked after 870,000 dollars found in his office

Police have found 870,000 dollars in cash during a search in the office of the Southern Customs Office, the press service head of the Prosecutor-General's Office, **Marharyta Velkova**, said on 2 October 2012. She said that 851,000 dollars was found in a garage and 22,000 dollars in the office of Southern Customs Office chief **Oleksandr Vdovychenko**.

On 2 October, Vdovychenko was dismissed from his post.

UKRAINIAN OPOSITION

Ukrainian opposition hopes PACE to declare jailed ex-premier, ex-interior minister political prisoners

Members of the Ukrainian opposition are certain that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) will declare former Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko** and former Interior Minister **Yuriy Lutsenko** political prisoners, the first deputy head of the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc opposition parliamentary faction, **Serhiy Sobolyev**, said after the PACE adopted on 3 October a resolution which defined the term "political prisoner".

"The next PACE session will consider a report on Ukraine and it will definitely mention political prisoners Tymoshenko and Lutsenko," Sobolyev noted.

For his part, the deputy head of the parliamentary committee for international affairs and an MP of the pro-presidential Party of Regions, **Leonid Kozhara**, said that the adopted resolution had nothing to do with Ukraine.

On 4 October the opposition registered in parliament a law on amnesty which will allow the government to free Tymoshenko and Lutsenko. Earlier, MPs introduced another amnesty draft law which did not envisage a release of the former prime minister and former interior minister.

Jailed Ukrainian interior minister not receiving required treatment

The management of the Mensk penal colony is not providing former Interior Minister **Yuriy Lutsenko** with the required treatment, the opposition People's Self-Defence party said on 5 October.

"As of the evening of 4 October 2012, the treatment by medication which has been prescribed after Lutsenko's examination was not administered. There is no preparation for a hospital check either," a statement issued by the party said.

On 2 October, Ukrainian ombudsman **Valeriya Lutkovska** and a medical commission paid a visit to Lutsenko. After an examination by the commission, Lutsenko was diagnosed with a number of serious diseases. The former interior minister was prescribed a course of treatment, an examination, as well as blood and urine tests.

Earlier, Lutsenko's lawyers sent Lutkovska a letter in which they wrote that the former interior minister had diseases which did not allow him to serve a prison term.

The visit of the medical commission and the ombudsman to the Mensk penal colony was covered by journalists of the private Ukrainian TV channel 1+1. The Ukrainian State Penitentiary Service said that Lutsenko had refused to communicate with the channel's journalists. Later, the former interior minister accused the prison management of lying about this.

Ukraine challenges European court's ruling on jailed ex-interior minister

On 1 October 2012, the Ukrainian Justice Ministry filed an appeal against the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in the case Lutsenko vs Ukraine.

On 3 July the ECHR ruled that the arrest of the former interior minister violated human rights. It also obliged Ukraine to pay **Yuriy Lutsenko** 15,000 euros in moral damages.

Ukrainian opposition candidate flees country due to arrest fears

An opposition parliamentary candidate from single-seat constituency No 132 in Mykolayiv Region, **Arkadiy Kornatsky**, fled Ukraine on 1 October 2012 until the end of the election campaign.

The United Opposition Fatherland explained that Kornatskyy, who according to the opposition had a fair chance to be elected in his constituency, took such a step after he found out that the authorities were preparing to arrest him.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Ukraine's top election body points out complicated ongoing election campaign

The deputy head of the Central Electoral Commission of Ukraine (CEC), **Andriy Mahera**, has said that the ongoing election campaign is the most complicated in his experience.

In his opinion, the return of the single-seat-constituency component has added many problems and, in particular, vote buying. Mahera added that "candidates have never done it so openly and with so much self-confidence".

On 3 October, the Opora civil movement said that representatives of the pro-presidential Party of Regions were actively using administrative resources as a means of influencing the election process.

Ukraine's 2012 election campaign beats advertizing cost record

The Ukrainian election campaign in 2012 might become the most expensive in the country's history. As of 23 September, parties standing in the parliamentary election have bought 37,000 advertizing TV ratings, over 100,000 billboards and 120m sq.m. of advertizing space in the print media, the Kommersant Ukraina daily reported on 2 October, citing the data provided by the ZenithOptimedia media agency.

Only eight parties are actively advertizing themselves on the national level in the ongoing election campaign. Their total media budget has already exceeded 62.6m dollars. Experts believe that this figure will soon double because most advertizing is pre-paid for the last month before an election, the daily added.

PACE not to replace head of observation mission for Ukrainian parliamentary election

Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) bureau decided on 5 October 2012 that the leader of the Socialist Group, **Andreas Gross**, will remain the head of the PACE observation mission for Ukraine's parliamentary election.

Earlier, Gross's colleagues criticized him for what they considered inappropriate statements about the upcoming parliamentary election in Ukraine in an interview with one of the country's print media outlets.

Ukraine's Interior Ministry reports 55 criminal cases opened over election law breaches

Ukrainian police have launched 55 criminal cases into alleged breaches of the electoral legislation since the beginning of the election campaign, Interior Minister **Vitaliy Zakharchenko** said on 4 October 2012.

On 1 October 2012, the Interior Ministry made available an electronic map of violations during the parliamentary election campaign. As of 3 October, the map displayed information on 1,652 registered election law breaches.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Ukraine to ban propaganda of homosexuality

On 2 October 2012, the Ukrainian Supreme Council adopted in the first reading a draft law which proposed to introduce criminal punishment (a fine or a prison sentence for three to five years) for propaganda of homosexuality.

The authors of the draft law explained that homosexuals posed a risk to national security and could lead to a demographic crisis since they contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS and the destruction of the institution of family.

The EU, the Council of Europe and such international human rights organizations as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch criticized the law.

In her turn, Ukrainian ombudsman **Valeriya Lutkovska** pointed out that the document did not define the concept of “propaganda of homosexuality”. In her opinion, this may lead to excessive restrictions of human rights.

Lawyer of the Institute of Media Law **Ihor Rozkladay** believes that the law envisaging jail terms for propaganda of homosexuality is as dangerous as the libel law.

Journalist **Oleksandr Sushko** wrote in the influential Ukrainian weekly *Dzerkalo Tyzhnya* that the EU might perceive the ban on propaganda of homosexuality as an act of discrimination which might considerably complicate the process of visa liberalization between Ukraine and the EU.

The results of a sociological survey carried out by the Gorshenin Institute in October 2011 suggest that the majority of the Ukrainian population (78.1 percent) believes that same-sex relations are unacceptable.

Ukrainian parliament rescinds libel law

On 2 October 2012, the Ukrainian parliament dropped from consideration a law which envisioned criminal responsibility for libel.

The libel law, which was authored by MP of the pro-presidential Party of Regions **Vitaliy Zhuravskyy**, proposed, among other things, to introduce fines and prison sentences as punishment for libel.

The draft law was adopted in the first reading on 18 September.

MP of the Party of Regions **Olena Bondarenko** explained that the decision to revoke the draft law on libel had been taken under the pressure of the political situation. In her opinion, a “more favourable time” should be sought to turn libel into a criminal offence.

The head of the United Opposition Fatherland's political council, **Arseniy Yatsenyuk**, believes that the Party of Regions will attempt to pass the libel law after the October election.

Top Ukrainian prosecutor's office refuses to issue confirmation of closed criminal case against website

The editorial board of the Lb.ua news and analysis website has at its disposal a copy of a letter sent by Kiev's Pecherskyy district prosecutor's office to MP **Volodymyr Landik** which says that a criminal case against the Internet publication has been closed.

The letter explains that the criminal case has been closed based on the results of a pre-trial investigation.

We shall remind you that pictures of Landik's text message exchange were taken by an accredited by parliament journalist of Lb.ua in the parliamentary chamber in November 2011. Later the photos were posted on the Lb.ua website, which gave the MP grounds to complain to the prosecutor's office. Only eight months after the complaint the prosecutor's office decided to launch an investigation and opened the criminal case. In August, the prosecutor's office announced about the closure of the criminal case.

The Lb.ua editorial board has yet to receive a copy of the resolution about the closure of the criminal case.

The position of the prosecutor's office is the following: the criminal case was launched over the fact, it included no last names but that of the plaintiff (Landik) and that is why the prosecutor's office has no reasons to provide Lb.ua with a copy of the resolution.

Landik did not receive a copy of the resolution either. The prosecutor's office sent him only a letter to notify about the closure of the case.

"It is obvious that such a letter addressed to Landik by the prosecutor's office violates both his rights and those of Lb.ua. Since the document does not provide an accurate explanation of why the case has been closed, the phrase 'based on the results of the pre-trial investigation' under the current norms cannot be considered as such. It seems likely that it has been done so that the parties to the conflict had no possibility to check whether the actions of employees of the prosecutor's office were legal," the Lb.ua editorial board believes.

Ukrainian ombudsman powers expanded

On 2 October 2012, the Ukrainian parliament passed a draft law which expands the ombudsman powers.

Under the law, the ombudsman will be able to visit detention centers, prisons and other similar facilities without a prior notification. Furthermore, the bill allows the ombudsman to sign agreements with independent civil organizations, upon which they will be granted similar rights.

The law was adopted as part of Ukraine's commitments to create a national

preventive mechanism – a state agency which would be responsible for preventing harsh treatment of convicts in prisons and penal colonies.

The head of the Vinnytsya human rights group, **Dmytro Hroysman**, gave the adopted law a positive assessment. However, in his opinion, since ombudsman **Valeriya Lutkovska** involved former employees of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry to set up a national preventive mechanism, “this will lead to nothing good and the mechanism will not work to the full extent”.

ECONOMICS

Ukraine's foreign currency reserves drop by 700m dollars

The international reserves of Ukraine in September 2012 decreased by 2.5 percent from 29.994bn dollars to 29.255bn dollars, the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) reported on 5 October 2012.

Ukraine's reserves at the end of 2011 amounted to more than 31bn dollars. Over the nine months of 2012, they reduced by 2bn dollars.

According to IMF's forecasts, the NBU's international reserves will fall to 24.4bn dollars by the end of 2012 due to the need to keep the hryvnya exchange rate at the current level.

Proceeds from privatization reach 670m dollars

Since the beginning of 2012, the State Property Fund has brought to the national budget 840m dollars, the fund's press service reported on 3 October 2012.

In particular, the largest amount of funds came from privatization – 670m dollars. The biggest part of this amount was received from the sales of government shares in power-generating and power distribution companies at the start of the year. The companies were mainly sold to DTEK (part of **Rinat Akhmetov's** SCM Holding).

In such a way, the annual privatization plan (1.25bn dollars) was performed by less than 54 percent over the nine months.

In 2011, privatization proceeds to the budget totaled 1.44bn dollars.

Ukraine plans to borrow over 12.5bn dollars in 2013

According to the 2013 borrowing plan, next year Ukraine expects to raise more than 12.5bn dollars, the Finance Ministry reported on 2 October 2012.

In line with the data recently published by the Finance Ministry, Ukraine in 2013 should channel 13.7bn dollars into repayment of external and domestic debts.

As of 31 August 2012, public and publicly guaranteed debt of Ukraine totaled 61.54bn dollars.

EBA: Investment climate in Ukraine deteriorating

Investors have assessed the business climate and business conditions in Ukraine in the third quarter of 2012 at 2.14 points (out of possible 5 points), which is the lowest figure in the history of research since 2008, according to a study conducted by the European Business Association (EBA).

The data were obtained through an independent survey among chief executives of the companies that are members of the EBA. The association polled 103 independent respondents.

According to the EBA's press service, the main problems named by the respondents that resulted in their negative assessments have not changed: high fiscal pressure, corruption and unstable political situation ahead of the elections.

President signs “depository” bill into law

On 1 October 2012, President **Viktor Yanukovych** signed the law “On Depository System of Ukraine”.

According to the adopted law, Ukraine will have a single central depository and clearing center, which in first years will be controlled by the state and the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU).

Market participants spoke against the law, as they believe that creation of a single clearing center will bring a nontransparent intermediary between market participants and the NBU.

Naftohaz Ukrayiny to receive subsidies

The Ukrainian government has suggested changing the form of government support provided to state-run energy company Naftohaz Ukrayiny. At the moment, Naftohaz Ukrayiny receives the budgetary aid through exchanging government bonds for the company's additional shares, and the government proposes to provide such aid directly from the state budget.

The respective government bill was posted on the parliament's website on 1 October 2012.

According to the explanatory note, the change is needed in order to technically reduce losses of Naftohaz Ukrayiny.

ENERGY MARKET**Ukraine opens four new oil and gas fields to investors**

Ukraine is looking to involve investors for the development of four new oil and gas fields in 2012 – early 2013, Environmental Minister **Eduard Stavytsky** said on 3 October 2012.

Stavytskyy also said that the proposed oil and gas fields are located in the sea shelf area outside Crimea's Kerch, at Foros gas field on the Black Sea shelf, onshore area in Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv regions and the Slobozhanske gas field [in Kharkiv Region].

New gas field discovered in Ukraine

The state-run company Ukrhazvydobuvannya [exploration subsidiary of Naftohaz Ukrayiny] reported discovery of a new gas field in Chuhuyiv District, Kharkiv Region, on 4 October 2012. The estimated capacity of the new gas field is about 1.7bn cu.m. of gas.

Construction of nuclear fuel plant begins in Ukraine

The construction of the plant for nuclear fuel production was formally started in Kirovohrad Region [central Ukraine] on 4 October 2012.

The construction of the plant is part of the Russian-Ukrainian joint venture where the Ukrainian state-owned company Yaderne Palyvo [Nuclear Fuel] owns 50 percent plus one share while the Russian corporation TVEL [fuel production subsidiary of Rosatom] controls 50 percent minus one share.

It is expected that the new plant will fully cover Ukraine's needs in commercial nuclear fuel.

Correspondent **Olha Derhachova** wrote in an article for the Dzerkalo Tyzhnya weekly on 5 October that as of today the design documents for construction of the plant, that the Russian side was supposed to provide, are not yet available and the required license for construction has not yet been obtained. Derhachova suggests that the actual construction works would not be started until 2014.

Ukraine's oil and gas monopolist to buy two new drilling rigs for 1.4bn dollars

The Naftohaz Ukrayiny state-run energy company has launched a public tender for procurement of two mobile offshore drilling rigs.

The estimated cost of two drilling rigs is 1.4bn dollars, the deadline for submission of the offers is 29 October 2012, Naftohaz Ukrayiny's press release dated of 2 October 2012 reads.

"The purchase of the drilling rigs will be financed via a loan," representatives of Naftohaz Ukrayiny said.

Ukraine ready for heating season

Ukraine finished pumping gas into the underground gas storage facilities having accumulated a total of 20bn cu.m. of gas ahead of the autumn-winter season 2012-13. The accumulated amount of gas is sufficient for the upcoming heating season, representatives of Ukrtranshaz (Naftohaz Ukrayiny's subsidiary) said on 5 October 2012.

SOCIETY**PACE Ex-Rapporteur: Number of paid media stories growing in Ukraine**

The number of paid media materials has grown in Ukraine, which indicates that editors and journalists are bribed more often, and self-censorship is growing in the country, former co-rapporteur of PACE Monitoring Committee for Ukraine **Hanne Severinsen** wrote in an article for weekly Ukrayinsky Tyzhden (The Ukrainian Week).

According to a survey conducted by the Gorshenin Institute in October 2010, the majority of the Ukrainian population during the election campaign hold the most trust with television (80.3 percent) and printed media (46.2 percent).

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