



Gorshenin *Weekly*

ISSUE #11(130) 04/01/2013

Content

1. International political

Ukraine-EU

Cox-Kwasniewski mission visits Ukraine...page 4.

Azarov doubts EU demands unbiased...page 4.

Government approves plan to adapt Ukrainian laws to European legislation...page 5.

First deputy prosecutor-general accuses EU of attempts to discredit him...page 5.

Ukraine not to leave Energy Community...page 5.

EBRD might issue loan to upgrade Ukrainian gas transport system by year-end...page 5.

Ukraine- CIS

Ukraine sets up working group to cooperate with Customs Union...page 5.

Ukrainian foreign minister visits Moscow...page 6.

Yanukovich tasks Arbuzov to supervise CIS cooperation...page 6.

Ukraine nearly halts Russian gas purchase, Stavytsky says...page 6.

Russia holds large-scale military drill involving Black Sea Fleet...page 6.

Ukraine-PACE

PACE president visits Ukraine...page 7.

Freedom urges PACE to recognize Famine as genocide against Ukrainians...page 7.

PACE delegation to visit Ukraine in April...page 7.

Ukraine-WTO

WTO calls on Ukraine to drop special car duties...page 7.

2. Domestic political

Authorities

Ukrainian Constitutional Court refuses to consider controversial language law... page 8.

Ukrainian pro-government party intends to gain control over key parliamentary committees...page 8.

Ukrainian pro-government party collecting signatures to dismiss opposition deputy

speaker...page 8.

Ukrainian special services report on activities in 2012...page 9.

Opposition

Ukrainian opposition leader says authorities intend to postpone Kiev mayoral election until 2015...page 9.

Ukrainian opposition party says authorities exert pressure on three members...page 9.

Ukrainian pro-government party sees no disagreements with opposition leader... page 10.

US court said to drop claims to American firms from lawsuit filed by jailed Ukrainian ex-premier to tycoon...page 10.

Ukrainian court to question businessmen in politician's murder case...page 10.

Ukrainian court rules to detain oppositionist in absentia...page 10.

Ukrainian opposition leader asks prosecutors to probe MP's expulsion from government session...page 11.

3. Parliamentary election

International watchdog urges Ukraine to investigate election violations...page 11.

4. Economics

IMF mission arrives in Ukraine...page 11.

Ukraine's debts top 66bn dollars...page 12.

Fiscal deficit grows to 288m dollars...page 12.

Government approves budget policy for 2014...page 12.

Focus magazine names richest Ukrainians; president's son doubles his wealth in 2012...page 12.

PrivatBank named among best banks in Central and Eastern Europe...page 13.

5. Energy market

Ukraine starts gas imports via Hungary...page 13.

6. Environmental safety

EBRD gives Ukraine 300m euros for nuclear safety upgrade...page 14.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

UKRAINE-EU

Cox-Kwasniewski mission visits Ukraine

The European Parliament mission headed by Polish ex-President **Aleksander Kwasniewski** and European Parliament ex-President **Pat Cox** visited Ukraine on 27-29 March.

Cox and Kwasniewski are now expected to present their findings on the use of selective justice in Ukraine by 18 April. The mission was set up in June 2012.

As the formal envoys of the European Parliament, Kwasniewski and Cox are de facto negotiating with President **Viktor Yanukovych** on behalf of the whole of the EU, the business daily Kommersant Ukraina said.

This can be the last visit by the European Parliament mission because the Ukrainian authorities have not displayed progress in tackling the problem of selective justice, according to the paper.

Earlier, on 21 March, the head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, **Jan Tombinski**, said that the signing of the association agreement between Ukraine and the EU would largely depend on the conclusions to be made by Pat Cox and Aleksander Kwasniewski.

The EU understands that Ukraine will not have met its demands by May, LB.ua editor in chief **Sonya Koshkina** suggested in an editorial on 29 March. She expects a public proof of this after 18 April when Cox and Kwasniewski are expected to present their report. Therefore, she says, the European officials are now busy finding an explanation for not signing the agreement in Vilnius in November and deciding how to build relations with Ukraine "after November".

According to Gorshenin Institute president **Vadym Omelchenko**, if the EU tightens the screws on Ukraine, Moscow will follow suit. He suggested this at the Poland-Ukraine forum in Warsaw on 25 March.

"Every time Europe sends a message to Ukraine on its failure to meet some European principles, Russia immediately toughens its position, its terms of cooperation are expanded to include new demands," he said.

Azarov doubts EU demands unbiased

On 25 March 2013, Prime Minister **Mykola Azarov** said that Ukraine should check if the EU conditions for signing the association agreement are unbiased.

On 28 March, Azarov said that the EU would be to blame if the agreement was not signed. He described as made-up the reasons why the EU might refuse to sign the agreement.

The EU expects Ukraine to mitigate the consequences of selective justice, in particular in the cases of ex-officials **Yuliya Tymoshenko** and **Yuriy Lutsenko**, advance its electoral legislation and speed up reforms outlined by the association agenda, the LB.ua news portal said.

Ukraine will need to show progress in meeting the demands by May if it wants the association agreement to be signed in November, the EU said.

Government approves plan to adapt Ukrainian laws to European legislation

On 25 March 2013, the government approved a plan to adapt Ukrainian laws to EU legislation.

According to the plan, Ukraine is expected to pass a number of legal acts to liberalize visa regulations with the EU and sign the association agreement in 2013.

First deputy prosecutor-general accuses EU of attempts to discredit him

On 28 March 2013, First Deputy Prosecutor-General **Renat Kuzmin** sent a letter to the head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, **Jan Tombinski**, in which he accused the staff of the EU Delegation of a deliberate provocation to discredit him.

Kuzmin said that on 22 March, the EU Delegation circulated "misleading and distorting reports" with regard to his statements about the chairman of the European Parliament committee on foreign affairs, **Elmar Brok**.

Ukraine not to leave Energy Community

On 27 March 2013, Foreign Minister **Leonid Kozhara** said that Ukraine would not leave the European Energy Community.

Ukraine's participation in the Energy Community is one of the conditions for signing the association agreement with the EU, he explained.

Earlier, on 21 March, Russian Prime Minister **Dmitriy Medvedev** said that Russia would set up a consortium with Ukraine to manage the latter's gas transport system only if Ukraine left the Energy Community.

EBRD might issue loan to upgrade Ukrainian gas transport system by year-end

On 25 March 2013, **André Küüsvek**, the country director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in Ukraine, said that by year-end the EBRD might complete talks on the issuance of a loan to upgrade the Ukrainian gas transport system.

According to a deputy board chairman of the Ukrainian state-owned oil and gas company Naftohaz Ukrayiny, **Vadym Chuprun**, such upgrade may cost 5.3bn dollars. This investment would ensure the transit of 145bn cu.m. of gas a year to Europe by 2030.

UKRAINCE-CIS

Ukraine sets up working group to cooperate with Customs Union

On 25 March 2013, the Ukrainian government set up a working group to cooperate with the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia.

Deputy Prime Minister **Yuriy Boyko** was put in charge of the group.

Any time now Ukraine can sign a memorandum to join the Customs Union as an observer, the Zerkalo Nedeli weekly said.

On 27 March, Ukraine's ambassador to Ukraine, **Volodymyr Yelchenko**, told the Interfax-Ukraine news agency that the presidents of Ukraine and Customs Union member states might meet soon.

Russian presidential adviser **Sergey Glazyev** said the same day that Russia should follow a tough line in negotiations to persuade Ukraine that entry to the Customs Union is an issue of its survival.

On 29 March, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister **Ihor Shuvalov** said that Ukraine should not be considering a "half" status in the Customs Union.

Ukrainian foreign minister visits Moscow

On 28-29 March 2013, Ukrainian Foreign Minister **Leonid Kozhara** paid an official visit to Russia.

The Foreign Ministry said that in Moscow Kozhara had discussed Ukraine's most topical agenda during the OSCE chairmanship and a range of issues on Ukrainian-Russian relations.

Yanukovych tasks Arbuzov to supervise CIS cooperation

On 25 March 2013, President **Viktor Yanukovych** appointed First Deputy Prime Minister **Serhiy Arbuzov** as national coordinator for cooperation with the CIS.

Ukraine nearly halts Russian gas purchase, Stavytskyy says

On 28 March 2013, Energy Minister **Eduard Stavytskyy** said that Ukraine hardly bought any Russian gas in March.

In his words, Kiev expects this would have an effect on its talks with Moscow on the price of Russian gas.

Gazprom's representative **Sergey Kupriyanov** said the same day that Ukraine currently receives around 120m cu.m. of gas daily (about the same volume as said in the contract).

The news portal LB.ua said that in January-February 2013, Naftohaz Ukrayiny imported around 2.84bn cu.m. of Russian gas, or 44 per cent (2.2bn cu.m.) less than during the same period of the past year. In January, Ukraine imported around 2.44bn cu.m. of gas, and 0.4bn cu.m. in February.

Gazprom is unlikely to offer Ukraine any significant price cuts unless the latter makes some major concessions, the Fitch rating agency suggested. Spot prices for natural gas in Europe are high, being driven by the continued cold weather, Fitch added.

Russia holds large-scale military drill involving Black Sea Fleet

Russia began a large-scale military exercise at 0200 a.m. on 28 March 2013. The exercise involved the navy of the Russian Black Sea Fleet stationed in Crimea.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister **Leonid Kozhara** said the same day that Moscow had notified Kiev about the exercise three days in advance.

UKRAINE-PACE

PACE president visits Ukraine

The president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), **Jean-Claude Mignon**, came to Ukraine on 26 March 2013 on a three-day visit.

During the visit he held meetings with government and opposition representatives.

In the follow-up to the meetings, the government representatives only mentioned the positive signals they received from the PACE president.

Meanwhile, the opposition said that they had discussed with Mignon the problems of selective justice directed against ex-officials **Yuliya Tymoshenko** and **Yuriy Lutsenko**.

Freedom urges PACE to recognize Famine as genocide against Ukrainians

On 27 March 2013, the leader of the Freedom party, **Oleh Tyahnybok**, asked PACE President **Jean-Claude Mignon** to urge the Council of Europe countries to recognize the 1932-33 Famine as genocide against the Ukrainian people.

PACE delegation to visit Ukraine in April

PACE co-rapporteurs **Mailis Reps** and **Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin** will visit Ukraine on 14-16 April 2013.

They are planning to meet the president, speaker and MPs. Reps and Pourbaix-Lundin are not going to see the jailed ex-officials **Yuliya Tymoshenko** and **Yuriy Lutsenko**, but will meet their lawyers.

The visit was initially planned for 4-5 April but was postponed until later at the request of the Ukrainian side, Pourbaix-Lundin said on 26 March.

The business daily Kommersant Ukraina earlier quoted a source in Brussels as saying that the Ukrainian authorities had postponed the visit of the PACE mission to avoid an assembly hearing on the situation in Ukraine on 22-26 April.

UKRAINE-WTO

WTO calls on Ukraine to drop special car duties

During a WTO council session on 25 March 2013, the EU, the USA and Japan called on Ukraine not to impose special import duties on new passenger cars.

WTO members cast doubts as to whether Ukraine's protective measures are justified and offered it to disclose full information and hold consultations before the duties are introduced, the business daily Kommersant Ukraina said.

The Ukrainian Economics Ministry said the duties would take effect this April as planned.

On 28 March, Economics Minister **Ihor Prasolov** said that the government would use the special duties to boost the output of Ukrainian-made cars.

DOMESTIC POLITICAL

AUTHORITY

Ukrainian Constitutional Court refuses to consider controversial language law

The Constitutional Court of Ukraine has refused to examine the controversial language policy law to determine whether it violated constitutional norms, the Ukrainian news and analysis website Ukrayinska Pravda reported on 27 March 2013.

Earlier, opposition MPs asked the Constitutional Court to declare the law unconstitutional because the procedures for its consideration, adoption and enactment had been violated.

As the LB.ua news and analysis website reported, the constitutional court had already refused to consider three appeals against the language law.

The language policy law envisages the possibility of two official languages in regions where the proportion of national minorities is over 10 per cent. It entered into force on 10 August 2012. As many as six regional and nine city councils have already made a decision to recognize Russian as their regional language.

In the opinion of Gorshenin Institute President **Vadym Omelchenko**, the Russian language will no longer play a dominant role in Ukrainian society. He shared this opinion during his speech "Ukraine seen by eyes of children" delivered to the European Parliament on 27 March. "This tendency is apparent when it comes to Ukraine's young population. The Ukrainian youth today listen to popular Ukrainian performers and read contemporary Ukrainian writers," the Gorshenin Institute president noted.

Ukrainian pro-government party intends to gain control over key parliamentary committees

The Ukrainian pro-government Party of Regions intends to ensure that its members represent a majority of members in several parliamentary committees, the Kommersant Ukraina daily reported on 26 March 2013. A resolution to this effect was registered by Party of Regions MP **Volodymyr Makeyenko** on 21 March.

According to the document, the pro-government party plans to increase the number of its members in the committees on European integration, tax and customs policy and law-enforcement activity.

The opposition believes that the potential developments in this context will violate parliamentary rules.

Ukrainian pro-government party collecting signatures to dismiss opposition deputy speaker

The Ukrainian pro-government Party of Regions is collecting signatures to dismiss the parliamentary deputy speaker and an MP of the far-right All-Ukrainian Freedom Association, **Ruslan Koshulynskyy**, the Ukrainian news and analysis website Ukrayinska Pravda reported on 29 March 2013.

The Party of Regions contends that Koshulynskyy does not handle well his duties as deputy speaker.

For its part, the Freedom party argues that such an initiative has to do with the opposition's intention to dismiss speaker **Volodymyr Rybak**, who represents the Party of Regions.

Ukrainian special services report on activities in 2012

On 25 March 2013, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) reported that last year it had exposed eight foreign spies and over 20 agents of foreign special services.

According to the SBU, these people attempted to illegally obtain information on promising developments in the defence and industrial complex, space industry and aircraft construction. It did not provide details about the alleged spies (their names, circumstances under which they were detained and their further fate).

OPPOSITION

Ukrainian opposition leader says authorities intend to postpone Kiev mayoral election until 2015

The Constitutional Court of Ukraine has been ordered by the government to recommend that the Kiev mayoral election and the election of Kiev city council be postponed until 2015, the leader of the opposition parliamentary faction Fatherland, **Arseniy Yatsenyuk**, said on 26 March 2013.

On 21 March, parliament adopted in the first reading a draft resolution on holding the elections of the Kiev mayor and the Kiev city council on 2 June 2013. There are plans to prepare the document for the second reading in the beginning of April.

At the same time, on 19 March, lawmakers of the pro-government Party of Regions asked the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to check whether holding the elections in the capital on 2 June 2013 was in line with the constitution.

Ukrainian laws stipulate that all regular local elections shall be held once in five years and on the same day. Therefore, the next election should be held in the autumn of 2015. However, the office term of Kiev city councillors who were elected during the snap polls in May 2008 will expire in June this year. The office term of the Kiev mayor ended in May 2012.

On 28 March, the Fatherland party said that the Constitutional Court has not yet started to consider the motion filed by the Party of Regions regarding the Kiev elections.

Ukrainian opposition party says authorities exert pressure on three members

On 26 March 2013, an MP of the opposition Fatherland party, **Oleksandr Turchynov**, said that the government was forcing three members of the parliamentary faction to join the pro-government parliamentary majority.

These MPs were offered either to take a large sum of money for joining the parliamentary majority, or face problems with law-enforcement agencies, Turchynov added.

He also noted that the secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, **Andriy Klyuyev**, was in charge of "poaching" opposition MPs.

Ukrainian pro-government party sees no disagreements with opposition leader

On 26 March 2013, an MP of the Ukrainian pro-government Party of Regions, **Volodymyr Oliylyk**, said that his political force had no non-overcomable differences with the leader of the opposition parliamentary faction Fatherland, **Arseniy Yatsenyuk**.

In the opinion of the Party of Regions MP, it was a positive development that the opposition started to choose the leaders who can strike deals with their opponents.

US court said to drop claims to American firms from lawsuit filed by jailed Ukrainian ex-premier to tycoon

On 26 March 2013, New York's Southern District Court dismissed the claims against a number of US-based companies contained in a lawsuit filed by jailed former Ukrainian Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko** against the RUE company and its co-owner, Ukrainian tycoon **Dmytro Firtash**, the business daily Kommersant Ukraina has reported.

In the opinion of experts, since the claims were dropped, the case might be closed. Tymoshenko's defence believes that the court ruling will not affect the lawsuit.

As the LB.ua news and analysis website reported, Tymoshenko filed the lawsuit in April 2011. She accused the state-run Ukrainian oil and gas trader Naftohaz Ukrayiny and the RUE company of colluding during a hearing at the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, which obliged the Ukrainian government to return 12.1bn cu.m. of gas to RUE. Tymoshenko's lawyers explained that the lawsuit had been filed in the USA because US companies and citizens had been allegedly involved in the case.

Ukrainian court to question businessmen in politician's murder case

As requested by the lawyers of jailed former Ukrainian Prime Minister **Yuliya Tymoshenko**, a court will question businessmen **Vitaliy Hayduk** and **Serhiy Taruta** as part of a pre-trial investigation into the murder of Ukrainian businessman and MP **Yevhen Shcherban**, the opposition Fatherland party said on 28 March 2013.

According to the information at Fatherland's disposal, Taruta will be questioned on 2 April, while the tentative date for Hayduk's questioning is set for 5 April.

The lawyers of the former prime minister believe that Taruta and Hayduk have been already questioned by a prosecutor's office, though discreetly.

The Prosecutor-General's Office suspects Tymoshenko and former Prime Minister **Pavlo Lazarenko**, who served time in a US jail, of organizing Shcherban's killing.

Ukrainian court rules to detain oppositionist in absentia

On 26 March 2013, Kiev's Shevchenkivskyy district court on the detention of an opposition candidate who ran in the parliamentary election in October 2012, **Viktor Romanyuk**, as a preventive measure.

Based on this court ruling, the Ukrainian government intends to ask Italy to extradite Romanyuk. The opposition member was arrested in Italy on 22 March. In Ukraine, Romanyuk is suspected of "attempting to embezzle state property on an especially large scale".

His lawyers believe that he needs to seek political asylum.

On 29 March, MP of the Fatherland party **Arsen Avakov** said in an exclusive interview with the LB.ua news and analysis website that an Italian court had released Romanyuk from detention. He added that Romanyuk had been freed without any restrictions and that he had to report to relevant agencies once a week.

During the parliamentary election in October 2012, Romanyuk garnered almost 10,000 votes more than his closest rival, a candidate of the pro-government Party of Regions, **Tetyana Zasukha**. Yet, district courts invalidated 33,000 votes given to Romanyuk. Later, the Central Electoral Commission of Ukraine invalidated the voting results in five single-seat election constituencies, including the one in which Romanyuk had been running.

Ukrainian opposition leader asks prosecutors to probe MP's expulsion from government session

On 29 March 2013, the leader of the opposition UDAR parliamentary faction, **Vitaliy Klitschko**, demanded that Prosecutor-General **Viktor Pshonka** investigate the case of obstructing UDAR MP **Serhiy Kaplin's** activity as a lawmaker.

On 27 February, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov forced Kaplin to leave a cabinet meeting for criticizing the government for its failure to deal with consequences of the bad weather spell.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

International watchdog urges Ukraine to investigate election violations

On 27 March 2013, the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) released a report on the most recent Ukrainian parliamentary election.

The document said that during the most recent electoral campaign in Ukraine, the organization reported a large number of such violations as using administrative resources, vote buying, persecuting and intimidating candidates, members of electoral commissions and journalists. The ENEMO also pointed to a lack of transparency during the process of vote counting.

The organization urged the Ukrainian authorities to investigate violations and vote rigging that took place during the election.

ECONOMICS

IMF mission arrives in Ukraine

A mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) arrived in Ukraine on 27 March 2013. The fund's representatives will be staying in Kyiv until 10 April. The mission's purpose is to continue talks on a new loan agreement.

According to Executive Director of the Bleyzer Foundation **Oleh Ustenko**, the parties will discuss two issues during the upcoming negotiations: the size of the budget deficit and increase in gas prices for households. The third requirement of the IMF (a floating rate of the Ukrainian hryvnya), as the expert noted, has been essentially resolved. Ustenko voiced this opinion during a panel discussion of the National Expert Forum, a project run by the Gorshenin Institute.

The fund's previous mission stayed in Ukraine from 29 January to 12 February.

According to the news and analysis website LB.ua, the IMF decided to replace its Resident Representative in Ukraine **Max Alier**. Starting from May, this position will be taken by French national **Jerome Vacher**.

Ukraine's debts top 66bn dollars

As the Finance Ministry reported on 26 March 2013, Ukraine's public and publicly guaranteed debt as of 28 February 2013 amounted to 66.55bn dollars, which is 563m dollars more than at the end of January.

In 2012, Ukraine's national debt grew by 5.4bn dollars, and totalled 66.4bn dollars by year-end.

Fiscal deficit grows to 288m dollars

The Finance Ministry on 28 March 2013 reported that the budget deficit in January-February 2013 was 288m dollars (200m dollars in January).

According to the news and analysis website LB.ua, in January-February 2013, Ukraine recorded a budget surplus of 425m dollars.

In 2012, the budget deficit, according to official data, amounted to 6.68bn dollars. For the current year, the deficit target is set at 6.3bn dollars.

Government approves budget policy for 2014

On 27 March 2013, the government approved the guidelines of budget policy for 2014.

According to the Budget Code, the government must set the priority tasks for each next budget annually by 1 April.

As the business daily Kommersant Ukraina reported, citing the document, the state budget for 2014 will be based on the following forecasts: GDP growth of 3 per cent (3.4 per cent for the current year), nominal GDP of 211bn dollars (7 per cent above the 2013 target), consumer and industrial inflation of 8.3 and 8.6 per cent respectively. The average annual exchange rate of the Ukrainian hryvnya to the US dollar is not specified in the document.

Focus magazine names richest Ukrainians; president's son doubles his wealth in 2012

The Focus magazine on 28 March 2013 published its annual ranking of the richest businessmen in Ukraine.

Rinat Akhmetov, owner of SCM Group, remains the leader with 16.83bn dollars,

followed by Privat Group partners **Ihor Kolomoyskyy** and **Hennadiy Boholyubov** (3.645bn dollars each).

The fourth is the owner of Group DF, **Dmytro Firtash**, with a fortune of 3.327bn dollars.

The fifth is Akhmetov's partner in Metinvest and owner of Smart Holding, **Vadim Novinskiy**, with 3.273bn dollars.

The owner of East One, **Viktor Pinchuk**, with 2.15bn dollars is No 6.

Oleksandr Yanukovych, the elder son of President **Viktor Yanukovych**, has nearly doubled his fortune to 198m dollars over the past year. In 2011, Focus estimated it at 100m dollars.

PrivatBank named among best banks in Central and Eastern Europe

As the news and analysis website LB.ua reported on 27 March 2013, Ukraine's PrivatBank was named among the World's Best Emerging Market Banks in Central & Eastern Europe, is the annual ranking compiled by the US magazine Global Finance.

PrivatBank is the largest Ukrainian bank and leader of the retail banking market. The bank is controlled by Ukrainian businessman **Ihor Kolomoyskyy**.

ENERGY MARKET

Ukraine starts gas imports via Hungary

On 28 March 2013, Ukraine began pumping gas in a reverse mode from Europe through the territory of Hungary.

Previously, gas supplies to Ukraine from Europe were made via Poland.

The business daily Kommersant Ukraina quoted the Energy Ministry as predicting that by the end of the year Ukraine should receive 4.2bn cu.m. of gas from Hungary and 600m cu.m. from Poland.

On 28 March, Energy Minister **Eduard Stavytskyy** said that Ukraine is also considering the possibility of gas supplies from Europe via an LNG terminal in Croatia, the launch of which is planned for 2016-17.

On 1 April, the Ukrainian Oil and Gas Company (Ukrayinska Naftohazova Kompaniya) controlled by Kharkiv businessman **Serhiy Kurchenko** started pumping gas in a reverse mode via Hungary, the Zerkalo Nedeli paper said. Previously, some mass media reported that Kurchenko had a connection to President Viktor Yanukovych's family.

On 30 March, Gazprom head **Aleksey Miller** called in question Ukraine's reverse gas supplies from Europe.

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

EBRD gives Ukraine 300m euros for nuclear safety upgrade

Ukraine and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) on 25 March 2013 signed a loan agreement worth 300m euros to finance a programme for safety upgrade at Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

According to Energy Minister **Eduard Stavytskyy**, Ukraine in April expects to receive another 300m euros from the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).

As reported by the news and analysis website LB.ua, Ukraine has four nuclear power plants with 15 operating nuclear reactors.

According to a survey conducted by the Gorshenin Institute in March 2011, the majority of Ukrainians (66.4 per cent) consider that Ukrainian nuclear power plants pose a threat to environment.

Founded in July 2010, Gorshenin Weekly is a weekly digest of expert analysis covering the most important political, social and economic events in Ukraine. It is the key source of information about opinion polls carried out by the Gorshenin Institute as well as the best professional commentaries on recent developments.

Gorshenin Weekly is available in Russian and English.

Gorshenin Weekly has over 700 subscribers in the EU, the USA, Russia, Ukraine and other countries. Its regular customers are representatives of the embassies, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the US Department of State, leading international analytical centres, Ukrainian and international mass media.

If you wish to subscribe to Gorshenin Weekly please send your request to the following e-mail address: weekly@gorshenin.eu.

Our contact information:

18b Mala Zhytomyrska st.,
Kiev 01001, Ukraine
+38 044 230 4962
+38 044 230 4966 f



For more information please visit our website
<http://gorshenin.eu/>