

ICPS newsletter®

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ICPS Digest – learn more about ICPS!

International Centre for Policy Studies has launched a new irregular information bulletin called ICPS Digest. The ICPS Digest will inform our partners about initiatives, publications released, policy briefs, and experts comments

2009 was a year filled with high-profile events, exciting initiatives and fruitful debate. We would like to share some milestones with you in first issue of the ICPS Digest.

Public debate was launched on Ukraine's membership in the Energy Community. During an international conference organized jointly by ICPS and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung with the support of the Energy Community Secretariat, the implications of membership for power, oil and gas markets of Ukraine were discussed.

A new foreign policy strategy is being developed for Ukraine. It will be discussed with the main candidates and submitted to the future President. During the drafting process, ICPS worked to include the interests and needs of all community representatives by holding public consultations in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, L'viv, and Odesa.

Support for the Government in its negotiations on FTA + with the EU continues. ICPS remains the source of analytical support for all interested parties. One unique opportunity for representatives of government, business and the public to hear each other's positions was provided by an ICPS-organized roundtable called "Setting up a Free Trade Area between Ukraine and the EU: Changing conditions of trade and their impact on business."

The potential of government agencies to implement the future EU-Ukraine Agreement is being assessed by the ICPS team. Based on European practice, ICPS has developed a unique methodology for assessing and identifying gaps within the government

machine. The results of the assessment and recommendations will be used by the government of Ukraine. They will also be shared with the European Commission to identify governments to be supported by the Comprehensive institution building, a new EC instrument.

The first independent assessment of ENPI in Ukraine focuses on the processes of planning, receiving, distributing and spending funds. An ICPS study is a window of opportunities for Ukrainian NGOs to become involved in this process.

A public debate was launched on how to improve the quality of life of ordinary Ukrainians. ICPS is developing new approaches and more effective choices for Ukraine's socio-economic policies, which should improve people's lives. The first issue of our new publication, *Let's live like Europeans*, offers concrete steps to improving the quality of life in Ukraine.

A campaign was launched on how to renew Ukraine's government through an educated younger generation. The ICPS study, *The new generation*, could cure "Ukraine-fatigue", and argues that the number of scholarships for Ukrainian students needs to be increased.

ICPS has been designated the coordinator and participant in an independent international review board that is preparing a "Program of Reforms for the New President (working title: "The 300-day Plan").

How might we be of use to you?

The new and improved ICPS site!

We offer you a new, powerful resource with new ideas, high-quality analysis and fundamental research.

ICPS top think-tank in Ukraine

The International Centre for Policy Studies came 1st in Ukraine and 14th among think-tanks in Central and Eastern Europe. These were the results of the 2010 Global "Go-to Think Tanks" poll by well-known third sector analyst James McGann. For the fourth year in a row, Mr. McGann has published a rating of top research institutions, improving methodology and expanding the geographic reach of the survey. Mr. McGann runs the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Media Breakfasts. This new ICPS initiative provides a platform for the media and experts to exchange opinion around European integration. The first topics were: Ukraine's Accession to the Energy Community, Setting up a Free Trade Area between Ukraine and the EU, and demographic policy.

Our new English-language monthly, ***Inside Ukraine***, offers foreigners exclusive material about current political events in Ukraine and provides in-depth interviews with key political players.

Another new publication, ***European Focus***, responds to key questions about Europe for Ukraine and engages in debate on urgent topics. The first issues in 2009 were dedicated to the problems with Europeanizing Ukraine, the country's accession to the Energy Community, and the establishment of a Free Trade Area between Ukraine and the EU.

Enjoy reading

Projects Publications

- ENPI Monitoring in Ukraine
- European Integration: New Context, New Institutions

Regular Publications

Inside Ukraine

- Ukraine is an electoral democracy! Now what?
- The foreign policy programs of the Presidential candidates
- Is Ukraine clawing its way out of the recession?
- The Presidential campaign heats up

European Focus

- Opiate of the masses? Social standards in Ukraine and the EU
- EU standards of democratic governing—The only way to desovietize public administration in Ukraine
- The EU-Ukraine FTA: Plus or minus
- Ukraine and Energy Community: The law of attraction of energy
- Façade Europeanization

Consumer Confidence

ICPS Newsletter

Experts Comments

- When a Kingdom holds the Presidency
- Will Brussels hear the voice of civil society in its Eastern Partnership?
- Thrown to the dogs: One year into the crisis, Ukraine's economy remains hostage to a squabbling leadership
- Whose fate will the Irish referendum decide?

Policy Briefs

- Curing "Ukraine Fatigue": Generation change
- The 2010 Gas Conflict: To be or not to be?
- Joining the Energy Community: A way for Ukraine to secure gas supplies?
- Quality of life: Time to walk the walk
- ENPI: A Work in Progress

Reform program for the new President

On 2 February, the International Commission of Independent Experts held a plenary session to put together a Program of Reforms for the new President of Ukraine. Formed in September 2009, the Commission includes leading government officials, analysts and community activists. The joint chairs of the commission were Prof. Anders Åslund, senior analyst with the Peterson Institute of International Economics in Washington and Oleksandr Paskhaver, president of the Center for Economic Development in Kyiv.

The main purpose of the Commission is to prioritize reforms and prepare recommendations for the first 300 days of the new President's term. Among the key issues the Commission attempted to address are: making the state more functional, stabilizing the financial sector, improving the business environment, reforming the energy sector, reforming social policy, and accelerating European integration. The resulting reform program will be presented to the new President.

What should Ukraine's foreign and security policy look like?

On 28 January, analysts presented the "Prospects for Ukraine's foreign and security policy for the next 5 years" at a press conference. Based on an analysis of the platforms of both Presidential candidates, experts have predicted how the future Head of State will carry out national security policy and what direction the country's foreign policy course will take.

According to Leonid Poliakov, chair of the Expert Council at the Research Center for the Military, Conversion and Disarmament, Ukraine faces a number of political, economic, energy, military, demographic, and even border management threats today that the future President must respond to. Both candidates give these threats similar evaluations and rightly criticize the imbalance in the government and its chaos. The difference is that Yulia Tymoshenko blames the changes to the Constitution of Ukraine in 2004 as the main source of these threats, while Viktor Yanukovich simply blames the Orange government. In terms of future foreign policy, most candidates are likely to return to multi-vector policy, that is, to looking for a balance between West and East. The problem is not so much policy itself but whether it will bring positive results to Ukraine.

ICPS Director Olha Shumylo pointed out that neither candidate has serious strategic intentions regarding foreign policy, which means there are unlikely to be any breakthroughs in this area over the next five years.

"However, no matter who becomes President, relations with Russia will be more depoliticized. As to Eurointegration, Ukraine will no longer be able to feed Europe slogans about joining the EU. It's high time the country took some real steps," Ms. Shumylo said. "In the end, no matter who becomes Head of State, I believe that they will not look at the outside world for at least six months."

This event was part of the New Citizen Community Campaign whose aim is to increase the impact of civil society on democratic processes in Ukraine (www.newcitizen.org.ua).

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Articles may be reprinted with ICPS consent.

The International Centre for Policy Studies (ICPS) is a leading independent think-tank in Ukraine. ICPS was established at the initiative of the Open Society Institute in 1994. ICPS's mission is to support the further democratization and modernization of Ukraine through proactive, consistent Europeanization.

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