



Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Illinois Division

Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки - Відділ Ілліной

2247 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60612

<https://uccaillinois.org/>

January 6th, 2021

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi,

Dear Congressman Krishnamoorthi,

On behalf of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of American Illinois Division, thank you for your continuous support of Ukraine in Congress. As U.S.- Ukraine policy is changing, we call your attention to important events, and hope that you will support the direction of the State Department in issuing sanctions as listed below, with a more robust approach to buttress Ukraine's defense against Russian aggression.

We summarize the latest events related to US-Ukraine relations:

- President Zelensky shut down Ukraine's three major media holding companies controlled by Viktor Medvedchuk, a powerful oligarch loyal to Putin. These TV channels are used to promote Russian propaganda and stifle reforms. They are platforms for Russian information warfare against Ukraine. President Zelensky signed a decree issuing personal sanctions against pro-Russian lawmaker Taras Kozak, who is a front for the powerful Viktor Medvedchuk, Putin's man in Ukraine.
 - o <https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/zelensky-bans-media-empire-associated-with-putins-friend-medvedchuk.html>
- The US Embassy in Ukraine approved this move. "The United States supports Ukraine's efforts yesterday to counter Russia's malign influence, in line with Ukrainian law, in defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity", the embassy said on Feb. 3. "We must all work together to prevent disinformation from being deployed as a weapon in an information war against sovereign states."
 - o <https://www.unian.info/politics/sanctions-on-medvedchuk-s-tv-channels-u-s-diplomats-voice-support-11308346.html>
 - o <https://www.kyivpost.com/article/opinion/op-ed/coalition-us-should-enforce-sanctions-against-medvedchuk.html?cn-reloaded=1>
- An interview with Ukraine's President Zelensky was aired on HBO, where he expresses support for President Biden's administration and for reforms in Ukraine. Here is a link to excerpts of it on CNN.
 - o https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR31N_hFVyzgOQdbdVZR7XZeesbCPppMAhYQYiIv7qOa5LlIce8RT7ok5A&v=Byf0Pw7qzYg&feature=youtu.be

- An open letter to Secretary of State Blinkin and Secretary of the Treasury Yellen regarding sanctions signed by many NGOs familiar to DOS that states in part, “we ask you to ensure enforcement of the US sanctions against Viktor Medvedchuk by including his wife Oksana Marchenko, his close associate Taras Kozak, as well as companies controlled by these individuals to the OFAC list.”
- These sanctions imposed by President Zelensky are a major departure from his conduct to this point. Therefore, we trust that this signals a more nuanced approach to policymaking by the Department of State - one that is more in line with the realities of Russian information warfare and aggression against human rights and Ukraine’s territory, and with the recommendations of immediate past Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine, Roman Waschuk. His conclusions reflect the well-intended mistakes by Ukraine’s international friends and a way forward.
 - o <https://huri.harvard.edu/what-west-got-wrong-amb-waschuk>

Please consider the above and encourage your colleagues on the Foreign Relations and Finance Committees and in the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, to further support Ukraine in its efforts to build a secure and democratic country.

Sincerely,

Ihor Diaczun
President

Marta Farion
Vice-President

Pavlo T. Bandriwsky
Vice-President

Maria Korkatsch-Groszko, PhD
Vice-President