

UKRAINE REFORMS TRACKER WEEKLY

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IMF's benchmarks and soft commitments

Customs head selection process moves forward

The selection commission for Ukraine's new head of State Customs Service has approved its internal rules, competition procedures, and candidate evaluation criteria.

According to our information, the competition will be announced next week, with the two finalists to be selected by March 2026 under the timeline set in the law. We will continue to monitor the process and update the estimated timetable on the [interactive dashboard](#) accordingly.

Source: The selection commission for the head of State Customs Service of Ukraine

Economic Security Bureau launches attestation and hiring commissions

The Economic Security Bureau of Ukraine (BES) has established two attestation commissions to reassess existing staff and two selection panels to hire new personnel, as part of its institutional reboot under Law #3840-IX.

The commissions include leading international experts, lawyers, human-rights advocates, and business representatives, nominated by the EU Delegation, U.S. Embassy, Netherlands Embassy, and the EU Advisory Mission in Ukraine, alongside appointees of the BES Director - a total of 44 persons.

Under the law, the re-attestation process must be completed by February 2027 - that is within 18 months of the new Director's appointment.

Source: Economic Security Bureau of Ukraine

Parliament backs long-term tax and customs breaks for big investors

Ukraine's parliament backed in the first reading draft laws #13414 and #13415, which grant tax and customs exemptions for large-scale processing investors until 2036.

The initiative, endorsed by Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko, was fast-tracked for consideration in parliament.

According to preliminary estimates, the incentives could cost the state UAH 20–40 billion (\$480–950 million) in lost revenue from potential future taxes and customs duties (the laws don't have direct impact on pre-existing tax revenue streams).

The move drew sharp criticism from the IMF, the Finance Ministry, and the European Union, which have repeatedly warned against introducing new large-scale tax exemptions.

Source: Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Other key issues

Cabinet submits revised 2026 budget for second reading

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has submitted an updated 2026 state budget to parliament for the second reading.

Key changes include a UAH 30 billion (\$710 million) increase in revenue from a higher corporate tax rate on banks, an additional UAH 18.9 billion (\$450 million) for the reserve fund, and more funding for education-sector salaries.

In the meantime, the Finance Ministry rejected all parliamentary expense increase proposals such as prolonging VAT exemption for electric-vehicle imports.

However, several reform-related spending increases were also left out of the final version. For example, no additional funds were allocated for reforming the Economic Security Bureau (BES) – its budget remains unchanged from the previous year and leaves little room for any significant change for the newly selected head.

The parliament will now vote for the 2026 state budget in the second-reading till November 20.

Source: Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Our monthly digests



Issue #12 of the Customs Monthly Digest covers State Customs Service performance in September 2025.

In this issue you can find:

- key monthly indicators and trends of the State Customs Service performance with expert comments;
- insights into the customs EU integration;
- legislation updates and other general news.

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Issue #6 of the Tax Monthly Digest covers State Tax Service performance in September 2025.

The digest offers in-depth analysis of:

- progress on anti-corruption and EU integration efforts in tax administration;
- key STS performance indicators;
- shifts in the shadow economy.

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