

## IMF's benchmarks and soft commitments

### **Ukraine moves forward in competition for Customs head**

On Jan. 17, Ukraine will hold the first stage of an open competition to select the next head of the State Customs Service.

Thirty-eight candidates will take an anonymous computer-based test covering verbal, logical and mathematical skills. The Cabinet of Ministers will publish the results within three days. The top 25 candidates – or more in case of tied scores – will advance to the next round.

The selection process is part of Ukraine's commitments to reform the State Customs Service

*Source: Selection commission for the head of State Customs Service of Ukraine*

### **Ruling parliament faction pulls IMF-linked bills amid vote shortage**

Zelenskyy's Servant of the People faction has pulled all legislative items from Tuesday's plenary agenda, citing a lack of votes, keeping only personnel-related matters (firing and appointments of ministers and heads of SBU and State Property Fund).

Among the postponed bills is draft law #14025, which would introduce new tax rules for digital platforms – a “prior action” required under Ukraine's IMF program as well as several other draft laws required by the EU's Ukraine Facility. Failure to pass the bills could delay critical external financing.

*Source: Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine*

### **Ukraine appoints western nuclear experts to Energoatom Supervisory Board**

Ukraine has appointed four Western energy and nuclear safety specialists to the supervisory board of state nuclear operator

Energoatom.

The independent board members are:

- **Rumina Velshi**, former head of Canada's nuclear regulator, the IAEA Safety Standards Committee, and the International Nuclear Regulators Association.
- **Laura Garbenčiūtė-Bakienė**, a finance and audit specialist with more than 25 years' experience in energy and infrastructure, including senior roles at PwC.
- **Patrick Fragman**, former president and CEO of Westinghouse Electric Co.
- **Brice Bohuon**, an energy regulation lawyer who previously held senior roles at EDF International and EDF Energy, worked at the French Council of State and the Energy Regulation Commission.

Three state representatives will be appointed in the first half of January, Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko said.

*Source: Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine*

## Zelenskyy pushes for overhaul of Ukraine's State Investigations Bureau

President Zelenskyy has instructed his administration to urgently submit legislation to overhaul Ukraine's State Bureau of Investigations (SBI).

The presidential bill is expected to be finalized and submitted to parliament in January.

Lawmakers already have an alternative reform proposal on the table. A draft law №13602 submitted in August by MPs Iaroslav Zhelezniak and Anastasiia Radina would introduce an independent selection commission with a decisive role for international experts, transparent hiring rules and a full re-certification of current staff.

*Source: Office of the President of Ukraine, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine*

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### Obligations to the EU

## Ukraine's Cabinet revised Labor Code

Ukraine's government on Jan. 7 approved a new Labor Code draft law, replacing a framework that dates back to the Soviet era. The 277-page draft seeks to modernize employment rules, regulate remote work, update dismissal procedures and align labor law with European standards. The draft law should be submitted to the Parliament soon.

## Other key issues

### **Ukraine's Parliament failed to appoint ministers under Zelenskyy decrees**

Ukraine's parliament on Jan. 13 approved a major reshuffle of the country's top economic and security leadership initiated by Volodymyr Zelenskyy, dismissing Denys Shmyhal as minister of defense and Mykhailo Fedorov as minister of digital transformation.

However, MPs were unable to secure enough support to appoint Denys Shmyhal as minister of energy and first deputy prime minister, Mykhailo Fedorov as minister of defense and Dmytro Natalukha, the head of the economic committee, as chair of the State Property Fund, forcing parliamentary leaders to pull all remaining personnel votes from the agenda. A second attempt to pass the appointments is now scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 14.

At the same time, parliament dismissed Vasyl Maliuk as head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) following a proposal by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. No permanent successor has been named. SBU will be run on an interim basis by Yevhen Khmara, previously head of the 'Alpha' special operations unit.

The reshuffle remains incomplete. Candidates for minister of justice and minister of digital transformation should be submitted later.

Source: Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

### **Zelenskyy extends martial law and mobilization until May**

President Zelenskyy has submitted decrees to parliament extending martial law and nationwide mobilization for another 90 days. The new extension would run until May 4, 2026. The relevant draft laws (##14367, 14366) were approved by the defense committee. The bills are expected to be passed by parliament on Jan. 14.

Source: Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

### **Zelenskyy launches shake-up of security, economic and negotiation leadership**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has begun 2026 with one of the most far-reaching personnel overhauls since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion.

Zelenskyy appointed military intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov to head the Presidential Office, replacing Andriy Yermak.

At the same time, Zelenskyy removed Serhiy Deyneko as head of the State Border Guard Service and dismissed the head of the National Securities and Stock Market Commission (NSSMC). On a related issue, the new law authored by MP Iaroslav Zhelezniak took effect on Jan. 1, introducing competitive selection procedures for the Stock Market commissioners, significantly reducing political control over the regulator.

*Source: Office of the President of Ukraine*

## **Ukraine launches work on wartime election law**

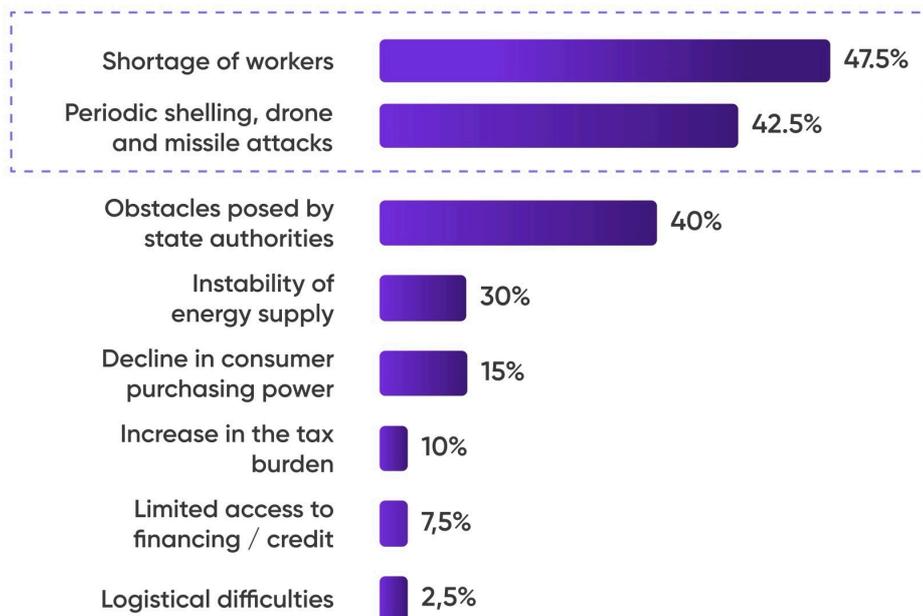
Ukraine on Dec. 26 began formal work on legislation to regulate how elections would be held under martial law, holding the first online meeting of a special parliamentary working group tasked with drafting the bill. The working group on electoral reform has split into seven subgroups that are expected to prepare a comprehensive package of legislative changes by Jan. 30.

*Source: Working group on wartime election law*

## **Ukrainian businesses cite labor shortages, security risks and barriers created by state authorities as top-3 constraints, – ToP's survey**

Ukrainian businesses **identify** the main obstacles to operations as a shortage of workers and security risks related to shelling, drone, and missile attacks, as well as barriers from government agencies.

## Which factors currently pose the greatest obstacles to running your business in Ukraine?



At the same time, most support the new rules for taxing income earned through digital platforms (“OLX tax”) as a step toward a level playing field. There is also a cautious increase in support for the government’s reform agenda – these are the key findings of the ToP business survey conducted at the beginning of December 2025.

The NGO “Technology of Progress,” together with the research agency “Gradus,” conducted a survey among owners, executives, and top managers of large enterprises in Ukraine.

Read the full report via the [link](#).

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## Our monthly digests

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**Customs Monthly Digest** №14  
November 2025

**Key updates**

The Government has updated the rules governing the establishment and maintenance of customs registers, as well as the procedures for carrying out certain state control measures (Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 1478 of 19 November 2025).

In particular, the resolution:

- establishes the procedure for maintaining a register of sorting facilities operated by express delivery providers;
- improves the procedures and standards for publishing open data by the State Customs Service;
- updates the list of goods subject to mandatory veterinary and food safety controls upon import into Ukraine.

Ukraine has also introduced sanctions directly targeting vessels belonging to the aggressor state's "shadow fleet" for the first time. Following Presidential Decree No. 869/2025, the State Customs Service launched a dedicated "Sanctioned Vessels" information system to enable their rapid identification.

As of now, 56 vessels have been included in the sanctions list. If such vessels enter a port, customs clearance is denied, effectively preventing the loading or unloading of cargo. This mechanism represents an important element of Ukraine's sanctions enforcement framework.

In addition, the Government approved customs and tax exemptions for imports related to the construction of a ski resort by LLC "SLAVSK".

## Issue #14 of the Customs Monthly Digest covers State Customs Service performance in November 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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**Monthly digest** №8  
November 2025

**Tax Service Performance Digest**

**Key events**

The State Tax Service of Ukraine (STS) has launched a digital service "TAX Control" aimed at identifying violations in the areas of trade, services, and public catering. This digital tool enables users to report the non-issuance of fiscal receipts, trading without a license or in violation of excisable goods regulations, refusal to accept card payments, and business activity conducted without state registration. The tool has been improved to include a feedback mechanism on the results of complaint review, making the process more transparent and effective.

On 26 November 2025, the Verkhovna Rada Tax Committee took into account an amendment to Draft Law No. 14997 proposing the opening of the register of licensed fuel filling stations (FFSs). On 3 December 2025, this law was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and is currently awaiting the President's signature. This provision will enable monitoring of fuel stations that have not obtained a retail fuel license and therefore operate illegally.

*We recall that the need to open the register of legal fuel filling stations was raised in September at the Top Event "Mount Talk PRO: Taxes, Business and Public Expectations from Tax Reform" dedicated to issues of interaction between business and tax authorities.*

## Issue #8 of the Tax Monthly Digest covers State Tax Service performance in November 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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