

IMF's benchmarks and soft commitments

Application process closes for Head of Bureau of Economic Security role

The submission period for applications to compete for the position of Head of the Bureau of Economic Security (BES) has officially closed.

While the exact number of candidates remains undisclosed, preliminary indications suggest a strong turnout, with over 40 individuals expected to have submitted their applications. Detailed information, including the list of candidates, is anticipated later this week.

The selection process will now move to the verification stage, where applications will be reviewed for compliance with requirements. Following this, candidates will undergo a rigorous six-stage evaluation. The process includes assessments of general competencies, legislative knowledge, and the ability to resolve practical cases.

Integrity checks will also be a mandatory component of the selection process. Ultimately, the commission overseeing the competition will choose no more than two finalists to advance.

Source: Temporary Investigative Commission on Economic Security of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Ukrainian business associations warn against risks of repealing 'Lozovyi amendments'

According to Forbes Ukraine, several Ukrainian business associations, including SUP (Union of Ukrainian Entrepreneurs), Diia.City United, and the Federation of Employers of Ukraine, along with six other industry organizations, urged lawmakers to reject four draft laws proposing the repeal of certain provisions of the "Lozovyi Amendments".

The amendments, which regulate pre-trial investigation time limits, are part of a commitment Ukraine made under its memorandum with the IMF, with implementation expected by the end of December 2024.

Business leaders warn that repealing these provisions could expose entrepreneurs to increased pressure from law enforcement

and delay the closure of legal cases, further burdening the business environment.

Integrity checks will also be a mandatory component of the selection process. Ultimately, the commission overseeing the competition will choose no more than two finalists to advance.

Source: Forbes Ukraine

Other key economic issues

Ukrainian Defense Minister replaces Defense Procurement Agency Head, defying supervisory board decision

On January 23, the Supervisory Board of the Defense Procurement Agency (DPA) voted to extend the contract of Maryna Bezrukova, the agency's current head, for another year. According to anti-corruption watchdogs, this decision fully complied with the law governing state-owned property and the agency's charter.

However, on January 24, Defense Minister Rustem Umerov publicly rejected the board's decision, refusing to recognize the contract extension. The minister also removed two state representatives from the Supervisory Board, Yuriy Dzhyhyr and Taras Chmut, and recommended dismissing Deputy Minister Dmytro Klimenkov, who oversees the DPA's operations. Umerov further announced plans to appoint Arsen Zhumadilov, head of the State Operator for Non-Lethal Acquisitions (DOT), as the new DPA Director. The leadership change has already been reflected in YouControl, a Ukrainian public registry system.

On January 25, Anastasia Radina, head of the Ukrainian parliament's anti-corruption committee, called on Umerov to resign. Radina accused the minister of undermining defense procurement reform and engaging in manual interference with procurement processes.

Source: Official Facebook accounts of Rustem Umerov, Anastasiia Radina, Anti-Corruption Action Centre

Our monthly digests

Issue #3 of the Customs Monthly Digest covers customs performance in December 2024 and trends during last year.

In this issue you can find:

- key monthly and yearly indicators and trends of the State Customs Service performance with expert comments;

Key updates of the month



Members of parliament propose to tax all paid-for orders made by Ukrainians from abroad

If parliament passes draft laws No. 12429 and No. 12430 registered in January, the following changes are expected in the taxation of parcels purchased abroad:

- Only up to 45 euros without value-added tax (VAT). Individuals will be able to receive goods worth up to 45 euros without paying VAT only if they are sent from abroad free of charge and without having a commercial purpose.
- In-store purchases and marketplaces are always subject to VAT. All purchases on foreign online platforms will be subject to VAT, regardless of the value. Goods costing more than 150 euros will be additionally charged a duty.

At the same time, the draft laws propose a simplified declaration form that allows foreign online retailers to register with the Ukrainian tax authorities and pay VAT and customs duties for buyers of goods.

In addition, the draft laws tighten the requirements for postal operators in Ukraine: they must operate nationwide, and have the appropriate infrastructure and personnel.

According to the authors, these changes are in line with EU Council Directive 2006/112/EC, and were initiated by individual business associations. The draft laws have not yet been considered by the relevant

- insights into the implementation of customs reform and European integration.

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